

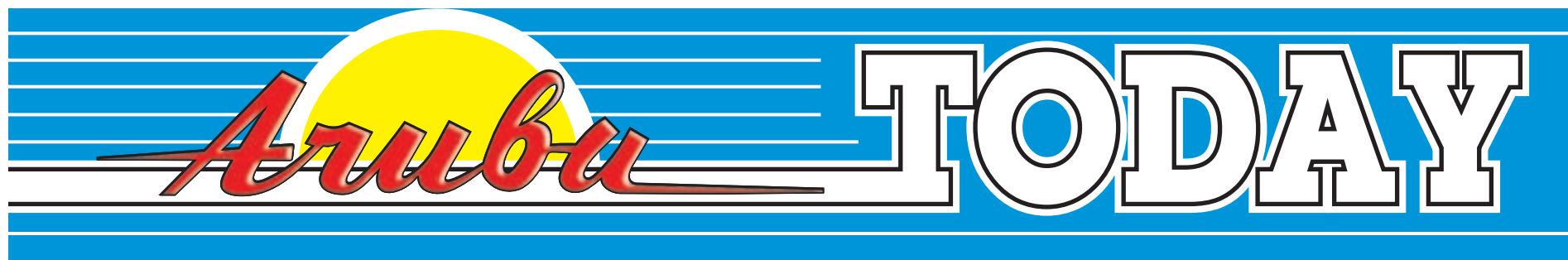
AT LEAST 3 DEAD
AS FIERCE STORM
POUNDS EUROPE

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UKRAINE OFFICIAL
REJECTS CALLS FOR
EARLY ELECTIONS

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On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Friday, December 6, 2013

REST IN PEACE, MADIBA



In this Dec. 7, 2005, file photo, former South African President Nelson Mandela, 87, is in a jovial mood at the Mandela Foundation in Johannesburg. South Africa's president says, Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013, that Mandela has died. He was 95.

(AP Photo/Denis Farrell)

Nelson Mandela, South African Icon Of Peace, Is Dead

LYDIA POLGREEN

© 2013 New York Times

JOHANNESBURG - Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first black president and an enduring icon of the struggle against racial oppression, died Thursday, the

government announced, leaving the nation without its moral center at a time of growing dissatisfaction with the country's leaders. He was 95.

"Our nation has lost its greatest son," President

Jacob Zuma said in a televised address Thursday night, adding that Mandela had died at 8:50 p.m. local time. "His humility, his compassion and his humanity earned him our love."

Zuma said that South Af-

rica's thoughts were with Mandela's family.

"They have sacrificed much and endured much so that our people could be free," he said.

Mandela spent 27 years in prison after being convict-

ed of treason by the white minority government, only to forge a peaceful end to white rule by negotiating with his captors after his release in 1990.

Continued on page 3

Fierce storm lashes Europe; at least 3 dead

DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON (AP)—A powerful storm with hurricane-force gusts hit Britain and began moving across Europe on Thursday, disrupting air travel, halting trains and leaving tens of thousands of homes without electricity. Accidents linked to the storm killed three people. Authorities evacuated some 10,000 homes along the eastern English coast after warning that the country could face its worst tidal surge in 60 years. The Thames Barrier — a series of huge metal plates

gusts up to 142 miles (229 kilometers) per hour. Trains were suspended for much of Thursday, but began to run fitfully later as some routes were cleared of debris. Transportation troubles were reported throughout northwestern Europe. All flights to and from Copenhagen's international airport were halted late Thursday due to the storm, officials said. It was not immediately clear how many passengers were affected or how long the airport — Scandinavia's largest — would stay closed. Almost all flights to and

Some schools in the northern Netherlands closed early so children could get home safely to celebrate Sinterklaas — the traditional Dutch version of Christmas — with their families. Passengers on an easyJet flight from London to Glasgow, Scotland, wound up landing in Manchester after aborted attempts to land in both Glasgow and Edinburgh. As the plane neared Scotland, "suddenly everything started shaking and bumping, we were going up and down, up and down," said passenger Hazel Bedford.

services to some of Germany's North Sea islands and the country's national railway, Deutsche Bahn, warned of likely disruptions across northern Germany. German authorities reported flooding on the tiny low-lying North Sea islands of Langeness and Hooe near Denmark, the DPA news agency reported. Residents protected their homes with sandbags against the rising waters but Langeness mayor Heike Hinrichsen warned if the seas rose as high as predicted, the "waves of the North Sea will be lap-

US teacher shot to death in Benghazi

ESAM MOHAMED
Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — An American teacher was shot to death as he was jogging in Benghazi on Thursday, highlighting persistently tenuous security in the eastern Libyan city where the U.S. ambassador was killed last year. There were no credible claims of responsibility, but suspicion is likely to fall on Islamic militants active in Benghazi. It came five days after al-Qaida's American spokesman called upon Libyans to attack U.S. interests everywhere as revenge for U.S. special forces snatching an al-Qaida suspect off the streets of Tripoli in October and whisking him out of the country. The United States called on the Libyan government to "thoroughly investigate" the death of the American. White House spokesman Jay Carney said President Barack Obama had been briefed on the situation. The U.S. State Department identified the teacher as Ronald Thomas Smith II. The State Department did not provide Smith's hometown, and it was not possible to immediately confirm a statement from a Libyan official that he was from Texas. The University of Texas in Austin said he graduated from the school in 2006 with a master's degree in chemistry. Smith taught chemistry at Benghazi's city's International School, a Libyan-owned institute that follows a British curriculum. The school posted condolences on its Facebook page. "He was a much loved teacher who supported students in their learning and always had time to help when asked," it said. "Ronnie was a professional who gave his time freely and without question. We do not understand why this has happened and it is extremely difficult for his students and his colleagues to accept." □



An electronic traffic warning system announces disturbances near Apeldoorn, Netherlands, Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013. Much of northwestern Europe is braced for the oncoming Hurricane-force storm that is widely predicted to bring flooding to coastal areas. (AP Photo/Peter Dejong)

that can be raised across the entire river — was being closed late Thursday to protect London from the surge. Tidal floods — caused as the storm drives huge amounts of seawater toward the land — were expected in Britain, Germany and Scandinavia, together with freezing high winds from Greenland. Rescue teams ferried residents to safety by boat in north Wales, while officials in other areas handed out sandbags and set up emergency shelters. The storm first plowed into Scotland overnight, slamming the highlands with

from Hamburg airport in northern Germany were also canceled, and federal authorities in Germany issued a warning for residents of Hamburg to expect a "very severe tidal flood" at about 6:30 a.m. Friday (0530 GMT; 12:30 a.m. EST). Residents were urged to evacuate low-lying areas of the port and along the Elbe River. The German Weather Service said the storm front, which was gathering strength as it headed eastward from the Atlantic Ocean off Greenland, would also bring polar air and some snow to Europe.

"An awful lot of people were being sick but the plane, it was incredibly quiet. When cabin crew said 'We're going to Manchester,' people started to realize this was serious," she said. An accident west of Edinburgh claimed the life of a truck driver and a falling tree killed a man in Nottinghamshire. Police in western Denmark said a 72-year-old woman died when the van she was in was knocked over in the storm. Forecasters predicted winds gusting up to 87 mph (140 kph) along Germany's North Sea coast. Ferry operators canceled

ping at the houses." "Nobody on the islands will be closing their eyes tonight," said Langeness resident Fiede Nissen. "It's already tense." The Netherlands closed water barriers to protect the low-lying country from high tides, including the Oosterscheldekering barrier in the southwestern delta region, which was closed for the first time since 2007. Water authorities in the northern Dutch province of Friesland were patrolling dikes to make sure any breeches or damages from the high tides were quickly repaired. □

Nelson Mandela, South African Icon Of Peace, Is Dead



In this Feb. 13, 1990, file photo, African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela gives the black power salute to 120,000 ANC supporters packing Soccer City stadium in the Soweto township of Johannesburg, South Africa, shortly after his release from 27 years in prison.

(AP Photo)

Continued from Front

He led the African National Congress, long a banned liberation movement, to a resounding electoral victory in 1994, the first fully democratic election in the country's history. Mandela served just one term as South Africa's president and had not been seen in public since 2010, when the nation hosted the soccer World Cup. But his decades in prison and his insistence on forgiveness over vengeance made him a potent symbol of the struggle to end this country's brutally codified system of racial domination, and of the power of peaceful resolution in even the most intractable conflicts.

Years after he retreated from public life, his name still resonated as an emblem of his effort to transcend decades of racial division and create what South Africans called a Rainbow Nation. Yet Mandela's death comes during a period of deep unease and painful self-examination for South Africa. In the past year and a half, the country has faced perhaps its most serious unrest since the end of apartheid, provoked by a wave of wildcat strikes by angry miners, a deadly response on the part of the police, a messy leadership struggle within the ANC and the deepening fissures between South Africa's rulers and its impoverished masses.

Scandals over corruption involving senior members of the party have fed a broader perception that Mandela's near saintly legacy from the years of struggle has been eroded by a more recent scramble for self-enrichment among a newer elite.

After spending decades in penurious exile, many political figures returned to find themselves at the center of a grab for power and money. Zuma was charged with corruption before rising to the presidency in 2009, al-

though the charges were dropped on largely technical grounds. He has faced renewed scrutiny in the past year over \$27 million spent in renovations to his house in rural Zululand.

Graphic cellphone videos of police officers abusing people they have detained have further fueled anger at a government seen increasingly out of touch with the lives of ordinary South Africans.

Mandela served as president from 1994 to 1999, stepping aside to allow

his deputy, Thabo Mbeki, to run and take the reins. Mandela spent his early retirement years focused on charitable causes for children and later spoke out about AIDS, which has killed millions of Africans, including his son Makgatho, who died in 2005.

Mandela retreated from public life in 2004 at the age of 85, largely withdrawing to his homes in the upscale Johannesburg suburb of Houghton and his ancestral village in the Eastern Cape, Qunu. □



In this Aug. 22, 1996 file photo, the Dalai Lama, left, walks hand-in-hand with South African President Nelson Mandela prior to an official reception at the presidential office in Cape Town, South Africa.

(AP Photo/Sasa Kralj)

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De Blasio names Bratton as New York police commissioner

**WILLIAM K. RASHBAUM
J. DAVID GOODMAN
JOSEPH GOLDSTEIN**
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NEW YORK - Mayor-elect Bill de Blasio on Thursday named William J. Bratton to lead the New York Police Department. The move will return Bratton to the helm of the nation's largest force at a time of historically low crime rates and a deepening rift between officers and the public. The appointment has been highly anticipated and will most likely be among the most consequential for de Blasio, who turned discontent with the Police Department's stop-and-frisk practices into a key part of his winning election run. Bratton rose to international prominence after his first tenure as police commissioner in New York in the mid-1990s and had been considered a front-runner since de Blasio began mentioning his name on the campaign trail.

De Blasio promoted Bratton, 66, as representing a change from the Bloomberg administration, saying that a rift had built up between the police and the people they serve. "He is going to bring police and community back together," de Blasio said. Calling him "the leading voice" on community policing, de Blasio said he had "absolute confidence, 100 percent confidence" that Bratton could both keep down crime and improve relations between officers and the public. "It's a new day," de Blasio said. Bratton will replace Raymond W. Kelly, the police commissioner since 2002. New York is much changed since Bratton first took the reins in 1994. Crime rates were much higher, and the issue dominated mayoral politics. With his hard-charging, media-friendly style, Bratton managed to garner considerable acclaim for the drop in crime

on his watch, even as crime was falling in many other big cities as well.

there is less acceptance of some of the most aggressive and confrontational

to leading the New York Police Department and vowed to follow through



New York Mayor-elect Bill de Blasio introduces William Bratton, right, as the city's next police chief in New York, Dec. 5, 2013. Bratton held the post in the 1990s and will return at a time of low crime and a deepening rift between officers and the public.

(Ozier Muhammad/The New York Times)

Now, Bratton returns to a city where crime has continued to fall and where

policing tactics. Bratton said that it was a great honor to return

on the new mayor's promise to reform the street tactics of the department. □

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CASINO AND SHOPS

Russian diplomats and spouses charged with Medicaid fraud

BENJAMIN WEISER

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NEW YORK - Federal law enforcement authorities have charged nearly 50 past or present Russian dip-

familiar criminal story line in New York.

An FBI investigation revealed "the systemic fraudulent submission of falsified applications for Medicaid

in U.S. District Court in Manhattan.

The diplomats and their spouses obtained the benefits for pregnancies, births and first-year-of-life medi-

says.

"Diplomacy should be about extending hands, not picking pockets in the host country," said Preet Bharara, the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, who, along with George Venizelos, the head of the New York office of the FBI, detailed the charges at a news conference Thursday.

Unlike other news briefings by Bharara, this one was not followed by the appearances in court of the defendants; because those charged are diplomats and their spouses, they have diplomatic immunity.

But Bharara noted that the State Department could seek a waiver of immunity from the Russian government to allow a prosecu-

tion to go forward.

Russian officials were not immediately available for comment.

Of the 63 births to Russian diplomats and their spouses in New York City between 2004 and 2013, 58 of those families, or 92 percent, were paid for by Medicaid benefits, the complaint says. The complaint cites an 18-month investigation of the defendants' Medicaid applications that revealed "general patterns of misrepresentations, which allowed them to qualify for Medicaid."

The defendants, for example, underreported their household income at an amount below the applicable Medicaid eligibility level in order to qualify for the benefits, the complaint charges. □



Preet Bharara, U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, announces charges against nearly 50 past or present Russian diplomats and their spouses in a \$1.5 million Medicaid fraud scheme, in New York, Dec. 5, 2013. An F.B.I. investigation revealed "the systemic fraudulent submission of falsified applications for Medicaid benefits" according to a criminal complaint unsealed in United States District Court in Manhattan.

(John Marshall Mantel/The New York Times)

lomats and their spouses in a \$1.5 million Medicaid fraud scheme, an unusual twist in what has become a

benefits" by the diplomats and their spouses, according to a criminal complaint made public on Thursday

cal needs, generally applying at the same New York hospital, which was not identified, the complaint

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Dems' counteroffensive on health care law begins



President Barack Obama speaks with Chris Matthews during an appearance on "Hardball with Chris Matthews" at American University in Washington, Dec. 5, 2013.

JONATHAN WEISMAN
MICHAEL D. SHEAR
© 2013 New York Times

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama and congressional Democrats, seizing on the good news of an improving health care website and rising enrollments, highlighted this week parts of the law that are popular with the public

and reminded Americans, and the law's opponents, of what would be lost if the Affordable Care Act were repealed.

As part of that political counteroffensive, Democratic congresswomen pressed Republicans for a plan that would provide free preventive health services for the 105 million

Americans who have already received them under the law. At the same time, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee singled out about 60 House Republicans, accusing them of plotting to take away immunizations for children, cancer screenings and mammograms. The president's aides said

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

that with fixes in place to the online insurance marketplace,

they hoped a daily barrage of more positive messages about the health care law during the next several weeks - some to be delivered by Obama personally - would help refocus attention on the benefits of the law. □

GM to pull back on its Chevrolet sales in Europe

JACLYN TROP

© 2013 New York Times

General Motors said Thursday that it planned to scale back its Chevrolet brand in Europe over the next three years as the automaker strives to stanch losses and become profitable there.

Starting in 2016, GM's strategy in Europe will focus on its Opel and Vauxhall brands as well as expanding its premium Cadillac marque. The automaker said that its decision to withdraw Chevrolet, the fourth-largest global automotive brand, was "largely due to a challenging business model and the difficult economic situation in Europe."

Chevrolet will sell only "iconic vehicles" like the Corvette in Western and Eastern Europe, while continuing its broad presence in Russia, where the Opel and Chevrolet brands are more clearly distinguished, the company said.

"Europe is a key region for GM that will benefit from a stronger Opel and Vauxhall and further emphasis on Cadillac," GM's chairman and chief executive, Daniel F. Akerson, said in a statement Thursday. "For Chevrolet, it will allow us to focus our investments where the opportunity for growth is greatest."

Meanwhile, GM will add to Cadillac's distribution network as it prepares to introduce new vehicle models. "Strategically, this makes sense," said Joseph Spak, an analyst with RBC Capital Markets, in a research note Thursday. The Chevrolet brand has lagged behind Opel and Vauxhall in market share in Europe, even as Chevrolet bought jersey sponsorship rights for the Manchester United Football Club.

"The hope was that Chevy would be able to compete at the lower end of the market and Opel would be able to move upscale, but this strategy never really gained traction," Spak said. □

Jack Lew calls for tighter global bank oversight

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) —

The world's biggest economies need to do more to strengthen financial rules to avoid a repeat of the disastrous 2008 financial crisis, Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew said Thursday.

Lew said he will use a February meeting in Australia of the Group of 20 major industrial countries to push other nations to overhaul their banking regulations. "I will use this opportunity to call on the world's biggest economies to bear down even more forcefully on implementation," Lew said

in a speech assessing the status of banking reforms.

"We will take steps to make sure that global banks meet the high standards that we have set," he said. Lew said tougher rules were needed in other countries to make sure banks don't move their operations to nations with lax regulations. "We must avoid a race to the bottom," he said.

Australia will take over the rotating chairmanship next year of the G-20, the group of major industrial countries such as the United States, Britain, Japan and Germany and leading emerging markets such as China, Bra-

zil and India.

Finance ministers and central bank officials from the G-20 countries are scheduled to meet in February. Lew's remarks came in advance of meetings Tuesday at which U.S. banking regulators are expected to approve a final version of the "Volcker rule."

That rule would bar banks with federally insured deposits from making speculative trades that could threaten the stability of the institution.

The rule, named for former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, was included in the Dodd-Frank law.

Congress passed Dodd-Frank in 2010 to overhaul bank regulations after the financial crisis. But regulators have struggled to draft specific language for the Volcker rule.

Lew said the language the regulators were adopting would bar the type of risky trading bets like the one involving the "London Whale," which resulted in a \$6.2 billion loss in 2012 for JPMorgan Chase, the biggest bank in the United States.

"It prohibits risky proprietary trading while protecting economically essential activities," Lew said. □

US Financial Front:

America's economy grows at 3.6 percent rate in Q3



A covered vehicle sits in part of the new paint shop at Chrysler's Sterling Heights Assembly Plant in Sterling Heights, Mich. The Commerce Department issued its second of three estimates of how fast the U.S. economy grew in the July-September quarter of 2013 on Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013.

(AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy grew at a 3.6 percent annual rate from July through September, the fastest since early 2012. But nearly half the growth came from a build-up in business stockpiles, a trend that could reverse in the current quarter and hold back growth.

The Commerce Department's second estimate of third-quarter growth released Thursday was sharply higher than the initial 2.8 percent rate reported last month. And it was well above the 2.5 percent growth rate for the April-June quarter.

Almost the entire third-quarter revision was due

to a big jump in stockpiles. Consumer spending, the lifeblood of the economy, was the weakest in nearly four years. When excluding inventories, the economy grew at a 1.9 percent rate in the third quarter, down from 2.1 percent in the spring. That's in line with the same subpar rate that the economy has seen since the Great Recession ended four years ago.

"There's no momentum here," said Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics. He said overall economic growth could come in below 2 percent in the current October-December quarter.

Business stockpiles contributed 1.7 percent points to

growth, twice the contribution reported last month in the first estimate. Companies are likely to cut back on restocking at the end of the year, especially if they don't see consumers stepping up spending.

In the third-quarter, consumers increased their spending at a tepid 1.4

percent annual rate. That was the slowest since the final quarter of 2009, a few months after the recession officially ended. Consumer spending typically drives 70 percent of economic activity. But the spending activity in the third quarter was held back by flat spending on services. That may have reflected an unusually mild summer, which cut demand for air conditioning. One hopeful sign: Consumer spent on goods at the fastest rate since early 2012.

Other details in the report were mixed. Business investment in equipment was flat in the third quarter. Spending on housing construction remained strong, rising at an annual rate of 13 percent. Government spending edged up at a slight 0.4 percent annual rate in the summer. The biggest spending increase in state and local government spending since 2009 offset another decline in federal expenditures.

A number reports have offered some promise that the fourth quarter could be

stronger than many economists are predicting.

In October, spending at retail businesses rose solidly, U.S. exports grew to a record level and employers added 204,000 jobs. November car sales rose 9 percent and are running at an annual rate of 16.4 million, the best performance of the year, according to Autodata Corp.

But early reports on holiday shopping have been disappointing. The National Retail Federation estimates that sales over the four-day Thanksgiving Day weekend — arguably the most crucial shopping stretch for retail businesses — fell for the first time since the group began keeping track in 2006. Faster growth could make the Federal Reserve more inclined to begin slowing its bond purchases, which have kept long-term interest rates low and encouraged more borrowing and spending. Many economists believe the central bank will not reduce the \$85 billion-a-month pace when it meets later this month. □

White House wants extension of aid for long-term unemployment

JIM KUHNHENN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House is pushing to extend jobless benefits to long-term unemployed Americans.

The argument is that if benefits don't get renewed by the end of the month, more than a million people will lose the assistance — which will slow economic growth. The government released a report Thursday. It says Congress has

renewed benefits when unemployment was lower than the current 7.3 percent. New jobless numbers are due out Friday.

Democrats want to keep a program giving federal jobless benefits to people after their 26 weeks of state benefits run out. The Congressional Budget Office says that would cost an estimated \$25 billion — but estimates say it would also stimulate the economy and create jobs. □

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Assault on Yemen's Defense Ministry kills 52

AHMED AL-HAJ
Associated Press

ADEN, Yemen (AP) — The Defense Ministry came under attack Thursday from a suicide car bomber and heavily armed gunmen, kill-

ment said. Among the dead at the Defense Ministry complex, which also houses a military hospital, were soldiers and civilians, including seven foreigners — two Germans,

Nobody immediately claimed responsibility for the two-stage assault, but suicide bombings and complex attacks are the hallmarks of al-Qaida. The brazen morning attack,

they exploit the instability that has plagued this key U.S. ally for more than two years. Defense Minister Mohammed Nasser Ahmed was in Washington for talks Thursday, and the U.S. State Department condemned the "senseless killing and wounding of dozens."

The U.S. considers Yemen's al-Qaida branch, known as al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, to be the most active in the world. In recent months, Washington has sharply escalated drone attacks against the militants in the impoverished nation. U.S. forces also have been training and arming Yemeni special forces, and exchanging intelligence with the central government.

The terrorist network gained a major foothold in the south, taking over several towns in the chaos that followed the 2011 uprising that ousted longtime President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The drone strikes and a series of U.S.-backed military offensives helped uproot several key militant strongholds, but al-Qaida continues to fight back.

In an attack blamed on al-

Qaida in May 2012, a suicide bomber blew himself up amid troops taking part in a parade rehearsal near the presidential palace in Sanaa, killing 93 soldiers.

The government statement said all the militants who stormed the complex Thursday were killed, but it did not say how many. State TV showed a dozen bodies, identifying them as the attackers.

Military helicopters hovered over the site as soldiers and ambulances arrived and gunfire echoed in the streets.

President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who succeeded Saleh, later met with military commanders inside the devastated complex and ordered an investigation into the incident, military officials said. In Berlin, Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle confirmed that two Germans and a Yemeni who worked for the aid organization GIZ were killed.

Military officials said the attack may have been timed to target a planned meeting of top commanders, although the session was unexpectedly delayed. □



This photo provided by Yemen's Defense Ministry shows heavy damage after an explosion at the Defense Ministry complex in Sanaa, Yemen, Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013.

(AP Photo/Yemen Defense Ministry)

ing 52 people and wounding 167 in a fierce battle in the heart of Yemen's capital of Sanaa, the govern-

ment said. Among the dead at the Defense Ministry complex, which also houses a military hospital, were soldiers and civilians, including seven foreigners — two Germans,

the deadliest in Sanaa since May 2012, underlined the ability of insurgents to strike at the government as

Official: Algeria kills high-level al-Qaida leader

AOMAR OUALI
Associated Press

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) — Algerian army helicopters killed a high-level al-Qaida operative and four associates as they sped through the southern Algerian desert, a local official said Thursday.

Two four-wheel-drive vehicles carrying Khalil Ould Addah, also known as Abu Bassen, were hit as they traveled through the desert province of Tamanrasset north of the town of Ain

Salah, said the official from Tamanrasset, the regional capital.

He spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

The Arabic language daily al-Khabar said the attack happened Wednesday, adding that the militants had come from northern Mali and were heading to a meeting of top al-Qaida in North Africa leaders.

There was some debate

about Ould Addah's exact position in al-Qaida.

The paper described Ould Addah, a Mauritanian, as the "No. 3" in the organization, but others familiar with the group say he was probably a regional leader.

Al-Qaida's branch in the Sahara is led by Yahya Abou el-Hammam, an Algerian, and Ould Addah was likely one of his trusted commanders, according to Jean-Paul Rouillon, an expert on the group.

Al-Qaida's North African

branch emerged out of the radical Islamist groups trying to overthrow the Algerian government during the 1990s.

To this day, its top leaders are believed to be hiding out in the northern mountainous Kabyle region.

The group, however, has been much more successful establishing itself in the largely ungoverned desert south of Algeria's borders and established its own state in northern Mali with the help of Tuareg rebels in

2012.

French forces backed by African allies retook northern Mali earlier this year and scattered al-Qaida throughout the region.

In January, al-Qaida-linked groups attacked a southern Algerian natural gas facility at Ain Amenas, taking hundreds hostage before the army attacked, killing nearly all the militants. At least 40 hostages died in the standoff. □

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JIM HEINTZ

Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — A top Ukrainian official on Thursday rejected the opposition's demand for early presidential elections amid major street protests gripping the country, as Western officials scramble to help work out a solution to the crisis. Thousands of angry Ukrainians have been rallying for days against President Viktor Yanukovich's abrupt decision to freeze ties with the European Union and then the use of force by riot police on demonstrators. But Deputy Prime Minister Serhiy Arbuzov told 1+1 television ruled out the protesters' main demand of the Cabinet's resignation

and pre-term presidential elections. "I don't see any sense in that," Arbuzov said. "There is no budget for early elections." Meanwhile, Europe's top human-rights body said Thursday that Ukraine's government and opposition leaders seeking its downfall have accepted a proposal to create a panel to investigate the past week's violence against protesters. Council of Europe spokesman Daniel Holtgen told The Associated Press the panel would include one member each, nominated by the government and the opposition, and that the council would nominate a third member who has substantial human right credentials.



Eugenia Tymoshenko, daughter of jailed Ukrainian former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko waves to protesters during a rally at the central Independence square in Kiev, Ukraine, on Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013. Western diplomats urged Ukrainian authorities on Thursday to respect the massive protests gripping the country against the government's decision to freeze ties with the EU and turn to Moscow instead.

(AP Photo/Sergei Chuzavkov)

The violent dispersal of protesters by club-swinging police Saturday and Sunday exacerbated opposition anger that was already high over President Viktor Yanukovich's shelving of an agreement to establish closer economic ties with the European Union. Protesters are gathering on the Ukrainian capital's central square around the clock and are occupying the city administration building, along with blocking access to government offices. The move comes as a Kiev court ordered the demonstrators occupying the city administration building to get out by Monday and the city's police chief warned of violence if they don't. □

Pope setting up commission on clerical child abuse

ELISABETTA POVOLEDO

ALAN COWELL

© 2013 New York Times

VATICAN CITY - Pope Francis will set up a commission to advise him on protecting children from sexually abusive priests and on how the Catholic Church should counsel victims, the Vatican said Thursday. The step was his first to address one of the most sensitive issues facing his papacy. The timing of the announcement, two days after a U.N. panel criticized the Vatican over its handling of abuse cases, suggested that the pope and his closest advisers want to be seen to be tackling the issue with greater firmness than in the past. The an-

nouncement was a forthright acknowledgment by the Vatican of the enduring problem of abusive priests, and it fit with Francis' pattern of willingness to set a new tone in dealing with religious and secular critics of the church. The suggestion to set up the commission came from the group of eight cardinals brought together by the pope a month after his election in March to advise him on reforming the Vatican's labyrinthine bureaucracy. Precisely who will serve on the advisory commission and what authority it will have remained unclear. But Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley, the only American among the eight car-

dinals advising the pope, said Thursday that it would include priests, men and women from religious orders and lay people with expertise in safeguarding children, and that it would offer advice on pastoral care rather than judicial functions. That seemed to signal that it would not make proposals for expos-

ing or punishing abusive clerics. "Up to now, there's been so much focus on the judicial parts of this, but the pastoral response of the church is very, very important, and the Holy Father is concerned about that," O'Malley told a news conference at the Vatican. "And so we feel as though having the advantage of a

commission of experts that would be able to study some of these issues and bring concrete recommendations for the Holy Father and the Holy See will be very important." The cardinal's diocese in Boston was the epicenter of the sexual abuse scandal in the United States a decade ago. □

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UN votes to strengthen force for Central African Republic

ADAM NOSSITER

© 2013 New York Times

DAKAR, Senegal - Fighting tore through parts of the capital of the Central African Republic on Thursday, hours before the U.N. Security Council voted to strengthen the international force that has been unable to quell the chaos there.

Officials and citizens said some strategic locations in the city - a military camp, the neighborhood around the airport and an opposition district - appeared to have come under sustained assault from forces opposed to the rebel coalition that seized power in the country earlier this year.



French Special Forces race through Bangui, Central African Republic, Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013 as gunfire and mortar rounds erupt in the town.

(AP Photo/Jerome Delay)

The shooting began in the early hours Thursday but had tapered off by mid-

morning, citizens said. The streets of Bangui were deserted and no vehicles were circulating on the capital's dilapidated roads, apart from occasional patrols by the small French military force in the city and the rebel coalition's pickups.

An official with Doctors Without Borders, the French medical relief organization, said that at least 50 people had been killed in the fighting, with 100 others wounded.

By midmorning, the attackers appeared to have been pushed back from the neighborhood of the National Assembly, at the edge of an area fiercely opposed to the ruling rebel coalition.

But the situation remained confused, with officials of

the rebel government saying that their forces had regained control, while others said that the anti-government fighters appeared to have penetrated into the capital's outlying neighborhoods.

The fighting Thursday was a sign of the heightened instability in the country since the rebels seized power in March. The Central African Republic, a landlocked country of 4.6 million in the heart of Africa, has been subjected to a seemingly endless cycle of coups, countercoups and rebellions.

But the situation has worsened since the rebel group known as Seleka, or alliance. □

10 die in shootout between Nicaragua cops, robbers

MANAGUA, Nicaragua

(AP) — Ten people were killed Wednesday in a confrontation between police and an armed group in northern Nicaragua, officials said.

According to a National Police statement, the shooting broke out when officers came upon an armed band robbing a grocery store in the town of Bocas de Ayapal in Jino-

ttega state. Six gunmen and four officers died, and two people were wounded, police said.

Such a mass killing is unusual in the country, which has had one of the low-

est crime rates in Central America since armed political conflicts in the 1980s. Local officials contradicted the police version of the shootout in interviews with Nicaraguan television Channel 12.

Janeth Sobalvarro, mayor of nearby San Jose de Bocay, said there was no robbery, but rather was solely a confrontation between police and the gunmen.

Many people in the northern province of Esteli, including Roman Catholic Bishop Juan Abelardo, have said the armed group has organized to fight the leftist government of President Daniel Ortega.

"I think they are minimizing the situation and making a mistake," Abelardo told Channel 12. "These are armed people and you have to meet their demands."

Police and Nicaraguan troops, which were also involved in Wednesday's

clash, have described the armed band as common criminals. Ortega's government has not spoken about the group.

The area of the shootout was a stronghold for the Contra rebels who fought the Ortega-led Sandinista movement in the 1980s.

Sandinistas overthrew dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1979 and Ortega's new government withstood a concerted effort by the U.S.-supported Contras to oust him. Ortega was elected president in 1984 but was defeated after one term. Since returning to power in a 2007 election, he has boosted his popularity and now is seeking to remove an article in Nicaragua's constitution intended to ban consecutive presidential terms.

Ortega's critics say that he wants to become president for life and that his government has become authoritarian and opaque. □



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Mexico plans how to safely box up recovered cobalt

OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Officials were engaged Thursday in the delicate task of recovering a stolen shipment of highly radioactive cobalt-60 abandoned in a rural field in central Mexico state. The material, which the International Atomic Energy Agency called "extremely dangerous," was found removed from its protective container. The pellets did not appear to have been damaged or broken up and there was no sign of contamination to the area, the agency said Thursday, quoting Mexican nuclear safety officials. Juan Eibenschutz, director general of the National Commission of Nuclear Safety and Safeguards, said it could take at least two days to safely get the material into a secure container and transport it to a waste site.

"It's a very delicate operation," Eibenschutz said. "What's important is that the material has been located and the place is being watched to guarantee no one gets close."

The missing shipment of radioactive cobalt-60 was found Wednesday near where the stolen truck transporting the material was abandoned in central Mexico. The atomic energy agency said it has an activity of 3,000 curies,

or Category 1, meaning "it would probably be fatal to be close to this amount of unshielded radioactive material for a period in the range of a few minutes to an hour." Hospitals were on alert for people with radiation exposure, though none had been reported so far. Mardonio Jimenez, a physicist for Mexico's nuclear safety commission, said those who exposed themselves to the pellets could not contaminate others. A family that found the empty container that had been used for the radioactive material was under medical observation, he told Milenio television. Hueyapxtla Mayor Javier Santillan later told the TV station that the family suffered no harm. The cobalt-60 that was missing for nearly two days was left in a rural area about a kilometer (about a half-mile) from Hueyapxtla, a farm town of about 4,000 people. Officials said it posed no threat to the residents and there was no evacuation. Federal police and military units on the scene threw up an armed cordon about 500 meters (yards) around the site. Alerts had been issued in six Mexican states and the capital when the cargo went missing, and also with customs officials to keep the truck from crossing the border, Eibenschutz said. White House said



Mexican troops and federal police keep a vigil guarding a rural field where thieves abandoned a stolen shipment of highly radioactive cobalt-60, while officials began planning the delicate task of safely recovering the dangerous material. The cargo truck hauling the cobalt-60 was stolen from a gas station this week in the neighboring state of Hidalgo, about 40 kilometers (24 miles) from where the material was recovered. (AP Photo/Marco Ugarte)

Thursday the Obama administration has no reason to believe that the stolen shipment posed a threat to the United States. White House spokesman Jay Carney said that U.S. President Barack Obama was briefed about the status of the shipment Wednesday. But townspeople complained they hadn't been given any information about what had been found in the nearby field. "We just want to know," Maria del Socorro Rostro Salazar, a lawyer who has lived in the town eight years. □

UN asks Dominican Republic to restore nationality

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— The United Nations is asking the Dominican Republic to quickly restore the nationality of individuals affected by a recent court decision that could revoke the citizenship of tens of thousands of people.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said Thursday that international legal

standards require Dominican authorities to restore automatically the nationality of individuals affected by the ruling. People affected also need a simple way to obtain their identity documents.

The Dominican Republic launched a plan Saturday that puts into motion the court decision. The plan

gives those affected by the ruling 18 months to request Dominican citizenship starting in June 2014.

Advocacy groups say that an estimated 200,000 people could lose their citizenship, many of them of Haitian descent. The government maintains that only some 24,000 would be affected. □

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UK government predicting surplus by decade's end

DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Austerity will remain in place in Britain for years to come, the government insisted Thursday even though the U.K. economy is growing faster than most of its peers. That was the message from British Treasury chief George Osborne as he unveiled his latest tax and spending plans. Despite painting a brighter economic picture and even suggesting that the country could be running a budget surplus by the end of the decade, there were few giveaways to hard-pressed households up and down the land. Osborne cautioned that the public coffers remain strained and that the country will have to wait longer to see an end to the years of austerity. He pledged to "fix the roof while the sun is shining" even when the budget is expected to turn a small cash surplus in 2018-19.

"The hard work of the British people is paying off and we will not squander their efforts," he told a boisterous House of Commons during his Autumn Statement.

Though Britain's recovery from the savage 2008-9 recession has generally been muted, it is currently doing better than most other major economies around the world — its quarterly growth rate of 0.8 percent in the third quarter is better than Germany's 0.3 percent and the European

Union's 0.2 percent. Osborne said the British economy is expected to grow 1.4 percent this year instead of the previous

ment was an earlier-than-planned increase in the state pension age to 68 for most of those currently in their 40s. In addition, he an-

opposition Labour Party, which argues that the Conservative-led government is presiding over a recovery that is only being felt



Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne delivers his autumn statement to MPs in the House of Commons, central London, Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013. British finance minister George Osborne painted a brighter economic picture for the U.K. economy, revising up his growth forecasts and even suggesting that the country could be running a budget surplus by the end of the decade.

(AP Photo/PA)

forecast of 0.6 percent. Next year, growth is forecast to be even stronger at 2.4 percent against 1.8 percent.

But Osborne insisted there was more to do to repair the damage to the public finances wrought by a banking sector collapse and the country's deepest economic recession since World War II.

He outlined more measures to get the British public finances into better shape in the years to come.

One notable announce-

nounced a capital gains tax on overseas buyers of property, quickly dubbed the "oligarch tax" by British media.

Osborne did offer some concessions such as measures to curb energy bills and extending a free school meals program for children up to 7 years old. Overall, the measures announced were fiscally neutral and markets were little changed.

The measures on energy in particular come in response to attacks from the

by a few, mainly the rich in and around London. Earlier this year, Labour leader Ed Miliband promised to freeze energy prices for 20 months if he wins the next general election, scheduled for May 2015.

Labour's finance spokesman Ed Balls continued the attack in his response to Osborne, arguing that the government's austerity medicine has held back the British economy and that the recovery from recession is the slowest in a hundred years. □

UN: Reduction of poverty slows in Latin America

LUIS HENAO
Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean is now easing at a slower pace, the UN's regional economic body said on Thursday, calling on governments to make policy changes that encourage growth while reducing the huge gap between the rich and poor.

UN economists based in Santiago said about 164 million people, or 28 percent of the region's population, are still considered poor. That is nearly unchanged from last year. Out of those, 68 million of them are in extreme poverty.

The last annual report said growing job income and economic growth helped lift a million people out of poverty to the lowest rate in more than three decades. But the UN economic body said that after decades of progress the pace in poverty reduction has now slowed considerably due to rising food costs and weaker economic growth. "Since 2002 poverty in Latin America has dropped 15.7 percentage points and indigence 8 percentage points but recent numbers show a slowdown," Alicia Barcena, head of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), told reporters.

"The only acceptable number living in poverty is zero," Barcena said. "That's why we're calling on countries to make structural changes in their economies to achieve sustained growth with greater equality."

The Latin America and the Caribbean region is among the world's most unequal.

On average, 20 percent of the households with the lowest incomes in the region get just 5 percent of a country's total income, while the wealthiest 20 percent of households get 47 percent of the total income. □

China bars banks from handling bitcoins

JOE McDONALD
AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Bitcoins suffered a new setback after China's central bank said Thursday its banks and payment systems are barred from handling the virtual currency.

The central bank said bitcoins did not qualify as a currency but private individuals still are allowed to trade them at their own risk. Bitcoins are created, distributed, and authenticated independently of any bank

or government. Their relative anonymity holds out the promise of being able to spend money across the Internet without scrutiny.

"Bitcoins are virtual goods that have no legal status or monetary equivalent and should not be used as currency,"

said a Chinese central bank statement.

It said financial institutions and payment systems were not allowed use bitcoin prices for products and could not sell, trade or store

bitcoins.

"Ordinary people are free to participate in transactions at their own risk," the central bank said.

Despite wild swings in value, the virtual currency has been moving toward broader acceptance.

A growing number of companies accept bitcoins, which can be converted into cash.

Last month, the biggest private university in Cyprus said it would accept bitcoins for tuition.

But other governments are wary of the cybercurrency. In July,

Thailand's central bank banned trading and use of bitcoins.

Bitcoins are actively traded in China, possibly due to relatively limited options for investment.

Just over 2 million bitcoins were traded over the past month on China's biggest exchange, BTC China, according to bitcoincharts.com, which follows trading in the cybercurrency. □



CMB's Arubaloop 2013 Boosts Community Spirit!



PALM BEACH – Last weekend, CMB bank organized their second "Arubaloop" run/walk together with the Aruba Triathlon Association and iRun Aruba.

Over 1,500 people participated in the event, and with the help of many volunteers, the event was a great success with a super ambience.

Special thanks go out to Mr. Paul Croes and Mr. Alex Schwengle who both participated and after the walk ended, handed out the prizes. Mr. Javier Wolter of CMB gave over Afls 65,000 in donations to S.V. Nacional, S.V. Bubali, S.V. RCA and also to Club Don Bosco and Stichting Mi Por.

CMB thanks all the participants for being a part of the second "Arubaloop"! □



Banjolux Proud of Contribution to the new City Hall Building of Aruba!

ORANJESTAD - Clearly visible on the faces of Banjolux owners Harold Strijland and Michiel Oversteegen you can see it. They are very proud for their contribution to Aruba's latest prestige project, the construction of the brand new City Hall building 'Cocolishi', on which they have worked for no less than two years. From the very first meeting through to the completion last month. Banjolux was preferred



by the team responsible for the design of the new City Hall building, and thus pulled in a considerable task: taking care of all tile floors and restrooms for the four storey City Hall building. In other words 3,000 m2 of tile floors in various designs and materials, plus another 18 bathrooms with high quality sanitary ware for all ministers, the Prime Minister, the minister council chamber and all public

accessible restrooms.

"We are indeed very proud of this task and not without reason", says Harold. "Fortunately, the choice was made for high quality products of all the different materials and that is reflected in the final result. The appearance of the new City Hall building is something Aruba can be very proud of".

Also, both Banjolux owners are very happy with the choice of a local supplier and overall cooperation. "In the past you could clearly see the major project to incline international

suppliers and buy their products there. We are pleased to see that in this case the choice went to Banjolux, a local supplier", says Michiel.

"The cooperation with all interested local parties, including contractors ALBO, went very well".

Banjolux has been a supplier for 16 years - since their opening in 1997 - of high quality products in the field of plumbing and tiled flooring. Among the clientele of Banjolux are most of the hotels in Aruba, various contractors and private households. □

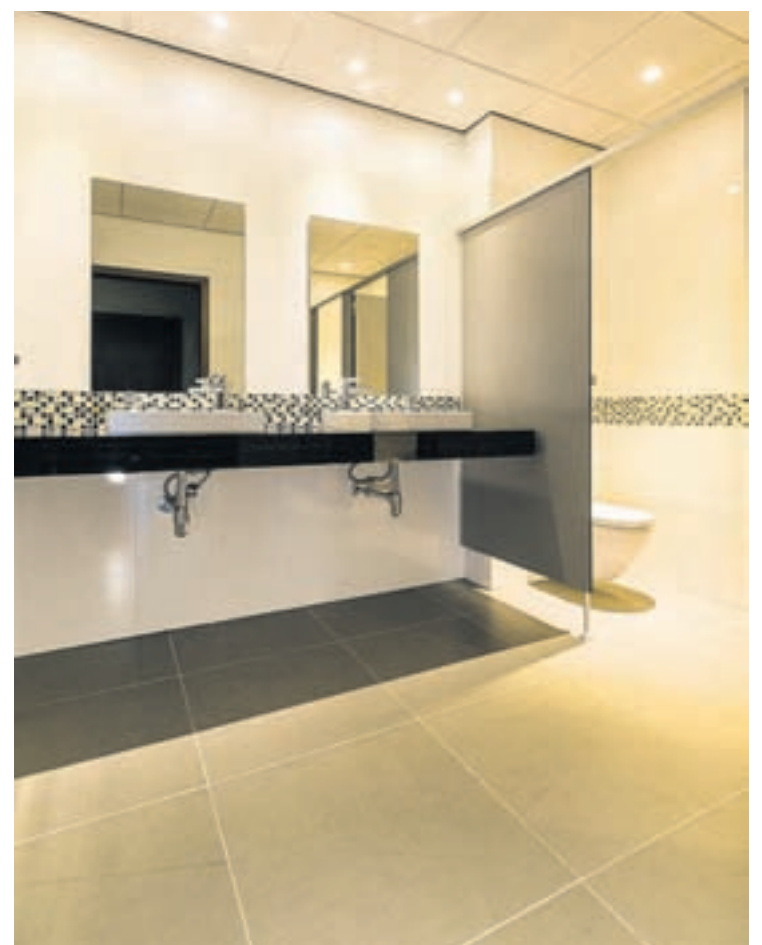
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SIGN UP FOR YOUR VIP CARD TODAY! ☐





Oscar De La Hoya headlines 2014 Boxing Hall class

JOHN KEKIS

AP Sports Writer

CANASTOTA, New York (AP) — "The Golden Boy" is golden again.

Oscar De La Hoya, who won Olympic gold and became a champion in six weight divisions in winning 10 world titles, has been selected for induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

"I am honored and appreciative to be chosen, and I thank everyone who has been a part of this journey with me," De La Hoya said in a statement released by the Hall of Fame. "This is the dream of everyone who puts on a pair of gloves and steps between the ropes and through the good and the bad.

You always hope that when all is said and done you put on good fights, entertained the fans, and will be remembered for what you did in the ring.

"To know that I will be in the Hall of Fame with the greats of this sport is humbling, but it's also put a smile on my face that isn't coming off anytime soon." De La Hoya headlined the class of 2014 announced on Wednesday, and two of his contemporaries in the



In this June 7, 1996 file photo, newly crowned WBC super lightweight champion Oscar De La Hoya poses with the belt he won from Julio Cesar Chavez by TKO in the fourth round in Las Vegas. De La Hoya, Felix Trinidad and Joe Calzaghe head the class of 2014 to be inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

Associated Press

modern era — Felix "Tito" Trinidad of Puerto Rico and Joe Calzaghe of Wales — will join him on June 8 at the induction ceremony in Canastota.

Joining the hard-punching trio are George Chaney, Charles Ledoux and Mike O'Dowd in the old-timer category, while Tom Allen is the lone honoree in the pioneer category.

The Hall of Fame's 25th class also includes promoter Barry Hearn, referees Richard Steele and Eugene Corri, journalist Graham Houston and veteran Sports Illustrated photographer Neil Leifer in the non-participant and observer categories.

Inductees were selected by the Boxing Writers Association and a panel of international boxing historians.

De La Hoya had an amateur record of 223-5 with 153 knockouts and won the lightweight gold medal at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

He turned pro later that year and captured his first world title, the WBO super-featherweight crown, in only his 12th bout.

Continued on page 20

Italian league offers Tim Tebow a 4-month contract

ANDREW DAMPF

AP Sports Writer

ROME (AP) — Tim Tebow has been offered a four-month contract by the Italian federation for American football, and the Milano Seamen are hoping to sign the free agent quarterback. Excerpts of an offer sent by federation president Leoluca Orlando to Tebow's representatives were posted on the federation's website Thursday.

"The offer has been made to his agent and now we're

waiting for a response," Seamen president Marco Mutti told The Associated Press. "We would be more than happy to have him."

A federation spokesman, James Dewar, told AP that the offer is for \$200,000 and that it was sent Wednesday on the recommendation of a sponsor. Tebow was cut by the New England Patriots before this NFL season.

He would be the most prominent player to appear in the Italian league - by far. The eight-team Italian



New England Patriots quarterback Tim Tebow (5) stands before huddling with teammates during the fourth quarter of an NFL preseason football game against the New York Giants Thursday, Aug. 29, 2013, in Foxborough, Mass.

Associated Press

league is divided into two divisions. The other teams are located in Ancona, Bologna, Bolzano, Parma, Reggio Emilia and Rome, while Milan has two teams.

The season begins in March and concludes with the Italian Super Bowl in July.

In last season's title game, the Parma Panthers beat the Seamen 51-28.

The Seamen have the league's largest stadium, with 8,000 seats. Fashion designer Giorgio Armani is a former owner of the team. □

Zach Johnson takes lead in Sherwood swan song

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif.

(AP) -- Zach Johnson already is looking ahead to next year, and one of his priorities is to score better on the par 5s. He got started on that Thursday in the World Challenge.

Johnson birdied four of the five par 5s on a chilly afternoon at Sherwood Country Club, sending him to a 5-under 67 and a one-shot lead over Matt Kuchar. They were among only five players in the elite 18-man field who broke par.

One of them was tournament host Tiger Woods, who had a new driver in the bag and missed only two fairways. The problem was his putter. Woods opened his round by missing a short par putt, and he finished it by missing a 4-foot birdie putt on the 18th. He wound up with a 71.

Kuchar played with Woods - they were partners at the

Presidents Cup - and hit his approach into 2 feet for birdie on the final hole.

Hunter Mahan and Bubba Watson were at 70. They are among seven players who have yet to win a tournament anywhere in the world this year, even though all 18 players in the World Challenge are in the top 30 in the world ranking. The tournament counts toward the ranking, though everything else about it is unofficial. For some players, it's a time to shake off some rust and test new equipment. For others, it's the end of a long year.

Johnson had his annual "summit" with his team of coaches at the start of the week. They go over the year, crunch statistics and lay out goals for where to improve in 2014. One of the areas was par-5 scoring.

"A highlight that we're looking into next year is trying to play those holes a little bit better," Johnson



Zach Johnson acknowledges the crowd after making birdie on the first hole during the first round of the Northwestern Mutual World Challenge golf tournament at Sherwood Country Club, Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013, in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

Associated Press

said. "I don't know what I did that today. I hit it close. I had good shots in there with the proper spin, noth-

ing more than that. But you've got to take advantage of them. You've got five of them. The thing is ... one errant shot, you're starting a 6 right in the face, if not more. There's a lot of penal areas."

There was plenty of punishment for some players in the field.

Steve Stricker was among those under par until a bogey-bogey-double bogey finish put him at 75. Jordan Spieth, coming off a sensational rookie season and playing for the first time since the HSBC Champions in Shanghai a month ago, had a 77 and was last in the field. Jason Day, who won the individual and team title at the World Cup two weeks ago at Royal Melbourne, had a 76.

Rory McIlroy, with girlfriend Caroline Wozniacki following him, was hopeful of building momentum from his first win of the year last week in the Aus-

tralian Open. He missed a few short putts, found the water on the par-3 15th and had a 73. He played with defending champion Graeme McDowell, who had a 72.

McDowell saw a note that his last eight rounds at Sherwood were in the 60s. That streak ended Thursday, though for good reason.

"The course hasn't been this tough in a couple years," McDowell said. "The scoring reflects that. The greens are much firmer. The speed of them caught me by surprise a little bit today. My speed was a little clumsy, and it showed today on the greens."

This is the final year the tournament is being played at Sherwood. It moves to Isleworth just outside Orlando, Fla., next year.

Woods has played only one tournament since the Presidents Cup, and that was a tie for third in the Turkish Open. □

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NHL Capsules

Sean Couturier, Flyers roll past Red Wings 6-3

The Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Sean Couturier had two goal and two assists and the Philadelphia Flyers scored four goals in third period to rally for a 6-3 win over the Detroit Red Wings on Wednesday night.

Couturier got the winner at 8:28 of the third period by tipping in a shot.

Scott Hartnell and Matt Read had a goal and two assists and Steve Downie and Claude Giroux had a goal and an assist each for Philadelphia. Steve Mason stopped 32 shots.

Philadelphia finished 3 for 3 on the power play.

Tomas Tatar scored twice and center Johan Franzen also scored for Detroit. Jimmy Howard made 28 saves. **CANADIENS 4, DEVILS 3, SO NEWARK, N.J. (AP)** — David Desharnais scored the tying goal with 37 seconds left in the third period and added a goal in the shootout and Montreal rallied for a victory over New Jersey.

Lars Eller also scored in third



New Jersey Devils center Adam Henrique, right, is unable to score against Montreal Canadiens goalie Peter Budaj, bottom, of Slovakia, and center Tomas Plekanec, of the Czech Republic, during the second period of an NHL hockey game, Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2013, in Newark, N.J.

Associated Press

period and shootout for Montreal, which also beat the Devils in Montreal on Monday night.

Rookie Reid Boucher, making his NHL debut, scored

for the Devils in the shootout, breaking a string of 20 straight missed chances by the Devils, who are 0-5 in shootouts this season.

Patrik Elias' unassisted goal

at 18:54 had given the Devils a 3-2 edge, but Desharnais redirected a slap shot by Brian Gionta to score at 19:23 for Montreal and force overtime.

The teams combined for five goals in the third period.

The Devils led 2-1 before Eller scored on a backhand to tie the score at 2-2 at 16:10.

Andrei Loktionov and Michael Ryder each scored in the third period to give the Devils a 2-1 lead. Boucher assisted on Ryder's goal.

Gionta scored in the first period to give Montreal a 1-0 lead and goalie Peter Budaj made it hold until Loktionov scored 4:19 into the third period to tie it at 1-1.

FLAMES 4, COYOTES 1

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Mark Giordano and TJ Brodie each had a goal and an assist to lead Calgary over Phoenix.

Giordano's goal extended the Flames' lead to 3-1 at 11:46 of the second period.

On the power play, Giordano's shot from the blue line changed direction off the stick of Antoine Vermette and eluded goaltender Thomas Greiss. □

Boxing

Continued from page 18

De La Hoya also won titles as a lightweight, light welterweight, welterweight, light middleweight and middleweight. His 2007 bout with Floyd Mayweather Jr. was one of the richest in boxing history, attracting nearly 2.5 million pay-per-view fans. He retired after a 2008 loss to Manny Pacquiao with a professional record of 39-6 with 30 knockouts and in 2002 established Golden Boy Promotions.

The fame hasn't come without some of the bad. De La Hoya admitted himself to a treatment facility in September as he continues to fight substance abuse.

The move came on the eve of the biggest fight of the year for his promotion company between Mayweather and Canelo Alvarez. De La Hoya first admitted two years ago that he



In this Sept. 18, 1999 file photo, Felix Trinidad, left, is held up by his corner in after defeating Oscar De La Hoya by way of decision after 12 rounds, to win the WBC/IBF Welterweight Championship at the Mandalay Bay Events Center in Las Vegas; and In this Nov. 4, 2007 file photo, Britain's Joe Calzaghe, right, celebrates after winning his bout against Denmark's Mikkel Kessler in a fight for three world super-middleweight titles in Cardiff's Millennium Stadium.

Associated Press

was an alcoholic and drug user and had been in treatment.

Trained by his father, Trinidad began boxing at age 10 and became one of Puerto Rico's most accomplished fighters, posting a

51-6 amateur record before turning pro.

He stopped Maurice Blocker in two rounds to capture the IBF welterweight crown in his 20th pro bout and defended his title 15 times, one of those a controver-

sial 12-round majority decision over De La Hoya.

Trinidad moved up in weight to win the WBA light middleweight title from David Reid in March 2000 and later that year unified titles with a 12th-round knockout



against IBF champ Fernando Vargas.

In 2001, he became a three-division champion with a fifth-round knockout of William Joppy for the WBA middleweight title.

The three-time world champ was a fan favorite because of his big-punching style and devastating left hook.

"This is a great honor for me, my father, my family and my whole team," said Trinidad, who retired in 2009 with a record of 42-3 with 35 knockouts. "This is the biggest triumph of my career."

Calzaghe was the Rocky Marciano of his division — nobody beat him in 46 professional bouts, which included a division-record 21 defenses of his super middleweight title.

"I'm so excited," Calzaghe said. "I'm very proud and humbled. I think it's amazing."

This is a massive, massive honor, just fantastic." □

NBA Capsules

Irving, Cavaliers snap Nuggets' win streak 98-88

The Associated Press
CLEVELAND (AP) — Kyrie Irving scored 23 points and the Cleveland Cavaliers snapped the Denver Nuggets' seven-game winning streak with a 98-88 victory Wednesday night.

Tristan Thompson had a career-high 21 rebounds and 17 points for the Cavaliers, who won back-to-back games for the first time this season.

The Nuggets, playing the third game of six-game road trip, lost for the first time since Nov. 18. The trip began with a 14-point win in Toronto on Sunday and a 24-point victory in Brooklyn on Tuesday.

Randy Foye led Denver with 16 points, while J.J. Hickson had 15 points and 11 rebounds.

Anderson Varejao scored a season-high 18 points and had 13 rebounds for Cleveland, which recorded its largest margin of victory this season.

TRAIL BLAZERS 111, THUNDER 104

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — LaMarcus Aldridge had a season-high 38 points and added 13 rebounds and Portland snapped Oklahoma City's eight-game winning streak.

Nicolas Batum hit a 3-pointer with 29.9 seconds to go that all but sealed it for Portland, which has won 14 of its last 15 games. The win also snapped Oklahoma City's seven-game winning streak against the Blazers.

Kevin Durant finished with 33 for the Thunder, who were playing the second game of a back-to-back after defeating Sacramento 97-95 Tuesday night.

Batum and Lillard both added 14 points for the Blazers, who were coming off a 106-102 victory over Indiana on Monday. Portland is 8-1 at home this season.

HAWKS 107, CLIPPERS 97

ATLANTA (AP) — Kyle Korver tied the NBA record for consecutive games with a 3-pointer and scored a season-high 23 points in the Hawks' victory over the Clippers.

Korver, returning from a bruised rib that sidelined him the last four games, tied Dana Barros' NBA 18-year-old record by hitting a 3-pointer in his 89th straight game. Barros set the mark during stints with Philadelphia and Boston from Dec. 23, 1994, to Jan. 10, 1996.

He made his first attempt in the game's first minute and finished 6 for 9 beyond the arc.

Paul Millsap finished with 25 points and Al Horford added 21 to help the Hawks snap a two-game losing streak.

Blake Griffin scored 24 points and Chris Paul had 19 points and 11 assists as the Clippers lost their second straight.

SUNS 97, ROCKETS 88

HOUSTON (AP) — Eric Bledsoe had 20 points and seven assists to lead Phoenix over the Rockets.

PJ Tucker added 18 points on 8-of-13 shooting with six



Cleveland Cavaliers' Kyrie Irving, center, gets between Denver Nuggets' Ty Lawson (3) and Darrell Arthur (00) during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2013, in Cleveland. Associated Press

rebounds.

Channing Frye had 14 points on 6-of-12 shooting and grabbed six rebounds, and Goran Dragic chipped in 19 points on 6-of-11 shooting for the Suns, who shot 45.6 percent from the

field, including 45.8 percent from behind the arc.

Dwight Howard had 15 points and 18 rebounds, Aaron Brooks added 17 points and six assists, and Omri Casspi had 14 points and seven rebounds for the

Rockets, who lost their second straight game.

James Harden finished with 14 points, hitting 3 of 17 from the field and going 0 for 10 from behind the arc. Patrick Beverley had 12 points and eight rebounds. PACERS 95, JAZZ 86

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Paul George scored 19 points and Indiana returned to its defensive ways to defeat the Jazz in Utah for the first time since an 84-60 victory on Nov. 29, 2005.

Lance Stephenson scored 15 points, Luis Scola had 14 and Roy Hibbert added 13 points for the Pacers.

Indiana outscored the Jazz 27-19 in the fourth quarter and parlayed 14 Utah turnovers in 20 points.

Gordon Hayward's 3-pointer cut the Indiana lead to 79-76 before the Pacers scored nine straight points, capped by West's 20-foot jumper that just beat the shot clock, and never looked back.

NBA game in Mexico City postponed

RICARDO ZUNIGA

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The game between the San Antonio Spurs and Minnesota Timberwolves was postponed Wednesday night because of smoky conditions inside the Mexico City arena.

The matchup will be made up in Minnesota at a later date.

The arena was evacuated about 45 minutes before the scheduled 9:30 p.m. EST tipoff when a generator malfunction outside the arena sent smoke pouring into the building, according to NBA spokeswoman Sharon Lima.

Mexico City Police said in a statement there was a fire in the generator room on the fourth floor of the modern glass-clad arena that opened in 2012.

"What happened was provoked by a short circuit in the room of generators," the statement said in Spanish.



A security guard covers his face as smoke engulfs The Mexico City arena during a regular season NBA match between the Minnesota Timberwolves and the San Antonio Spurs in Mexico City, Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2013.

Associated Press

About 15 minutes after the scheduled start, the Spurs bus pulled away from the building. The Timberwolves bus followed soon after.

While the teams were warming up for their regular-season matchup, lights went out in parts of the arena and smoke began coming out of vents in the upper deck. The court quickly became cloudy.

"I thought they were practicing fireworks," Spurs TV analyst Sean Elliot said. "A lot of teams do that before introductions. But then the smoke just kept creeping and it wasn't white smoke. It was like a brown dark smoke and it started taking over the whole court. It was surprising."

Fans had not yet been allowed into the arena for

the NBA's first regular-season game in the country since Houston and Dallas played in Mexico City on Dec. 6, 1997, when the evacuation was ordered. The teams went to their buses, still wearing their practice gear.

Spurs guard Manu Ginobili said there was a lot of smoke in their locker room. Standing outside the Timberwolves' bus in shorts and practice shirt, guard Ricky Rubio had no idea what happened.

"They just told us to leave," Rubio said in Spanish.

Both teams were scheduled to travel home right after the game. The Spurs next host the Indiana Pacers on Saturday night.

The Timberwolves, who play the Miami Heat on Saturday night, were coming off a stretch in which they played a franchise-record 18 games before Dec. 1. The postponement gives them a much-needed break.

Clark 1st ex-big leaguer to run MLB players' union

By Bernie Wilson

AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) -- Tony Clark said he's "blown away" that he is the first former major leaguer to become head of the baseball players' union.

The executive board of the Major League Baseball Players Association voted unanimously Tuesday to appoint Clark to replace Michael Weiner, who died Nov. 21 of brain cancer. The decision is pending a vote of the general membership.

Clark was an All-Star in 2001 and played for 15 seasons with Detroit, Arizona, the New York Mets, New York Yankees, Boston and San Diego. The 41-year-old was appointed deputy executive director in July and had been acting executive director since Weiner's death.

The executive board is meeting this week at Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego. Clark went to high school in the San Diego area and played basketball at San Diego State.

After retiring during the 2009 season, Clark had opportunities in broadcasting and coaching.

Instead, he said he woke up one day and told his wife that he should work for the players' union, "having no idea that we would be

sitting before you, Dec. 3, 2013, in this capacity, but appreciating all the while that Michael's vision for our organization, my involvement with it, and the hope and having and making a difference for our group, active and inactive and those that are coming next, was the final decision-maker for me."

Clark spoke on a conference call and then to a handful of San Diego reporters.

Clark joined the MLBPA staff in March 2010 as director of player relations.

He got active in union affairs after attending his first executive board meeting in 1999. From there he became a team player representative, before spending his last seven seasons as an association representative. As a player, Clark was actively involved in 2002 and 2006 collective bargaining as well as negotiations on revisions to the Joint Drug Agreement.

"I expected to be tied to the hip with Michael for 20 years," Clark said. "He rides off into the sunset, I ride off into the sunset, we ride off into the sunset, having, Lord willing, affected the game positively. Blown away, yes. Humbled, yes. Excited to carry on the vision that Michael put into place, yes. ... Focused, not



Tony Clark, the newly named Executive Director of the Major League Baseball Players Association, answers questions during a news conference at the organizations' annual meeting Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2013, in San Diego. Clark, who replaced the late Michael Weiner, is flanked by executive board member Jeremy Guthrie.

Associated Press

just now but going forward on what we stand for, who we are and how we've arrived at the place we've arrived? Blown away, yes."

Jeremy Guthrie of the Kansas City Royals and free agent outfielder Curtis Granderson spoke glowingly of Clark.

Guthrie pointed out that Weiner had been groomed before he took over for Donald Fehr in 2009, and Clark was groomed to replace Weiner, "although the time came way too fast, much more fast than any of us hoped or expected." Guthrie said he met with Weiner in 2012 after the cancer

has been diagnosed, and the two agreed that Clark appeared to be the best candidate to eventually succeed Weiner.

"Michael had the intuition, the foresight, whatever it was, to bring Tony on board when he did and to have him at his side," Guthrie said. "Tony clearly rose to the top as someone that we'd never necessarily had planned to see in this position, but when we needed to find someone, his candidacy was clear, that he was someone prepared to do this."

"I think this is a unique time," Guthrie said. "Base-

ball changes a ton and our union continues to progress and now we have a former player on board. I don't think there's a better player that's ever been a part of this game, one as prepared, one as intelligent, one as powerful, one as knowledgeable, as Tony, to step in and do that. It's funny how things happen, but preparation has been on our side."

Granderson said that when the 6-foot-8 Clark walked into a meeting Monday, he didn't have to say a word and the other players stopped talking and took their seats.

"That was an additional confirming moment for me as far as this person demanding attention," Granderson said. "The information he's going to provide is going to be of importance, no matter when he's speaking or what he's speaking about."

"The idea of him being a player, you never forget that as part of his resume, but that's not all he is," Granderson added. "For some reason people have coupled him to that category, but he is by far more than that and will continue to be more than that. That's just a chapter in his background. This is a new chapter and there will be many new chapters." □



In this Nov. 30, 2013, file photo, Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston warms up before an NCAA college football game against Florida in Gainesville, Fla.

Associated Press

GARY FINEOUT

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Florida (AP)

— A top college football player for the No. 1 ranked program in the country will

No charges in football player sex assault case

not be charged with sexually assaulting a woman who accused him of raping her about a year ago, a prosecutor said Thursday. State Attorney Willie Meggs made the announcement regarding Florida State quarterback and Heisman Trophy candidate Jameis Winston at a news conference, saying there was not enough evidence to win a conviction.

"After reviewing all the evidence in the case, we did not feel like we could meet that burden," Meggs said.

A search warrant from January, released hours before the news conference, detailed the woman's accusations for the first time. She told police she and friends had five to six shots at a bar and her "memory is very broken from that point forward." She said she remembered being in a cab with a "non-descript" black man and going into an apartment where she was raped.

The woman didn't identify Winston, who is black, until about a month after the al-

leged assault.

The case garnered national attention in a country where college sports are revered. Winston, 19, has led the Florida State Seminoles to a No. 1 ranking and a shot at a national championship if they defeat Duke on Saturday.

Many Heisman voters were waiting to see whether Winston will be charged with a crime before casting their ballots. The deadline for ballots is Monday, and the trophy is awarded Dec. 14. □

SolarCity to back up solar with Tesla batteries

JONATHAN FAHEY

AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The solar panel installer SolarCity is beginning to address one of solar power's big drawbacks: The sun doesn't always shine.

The solution: big battery packs that will provide backup power while lowering electric bills. The supplier: electric car maker Tesla Motors, whose CEO Elon Musk is also the chairman of SolarCity.

"Our goal is to be an energy provider, to provide all energy services," said SolarCity CEO Lyndon Rive. The batteries will be offered first to commercial customers because of the way many commercial electric bills are calculated. SolarCity is also conducting a pilot program in California for homeowners, but because residential bills are calculated differently — and the batteries are so expensive — it could be years before batteries make financial sense for homes.

"We know this is a long-term problem, so we are investing in it now," Rive said. SolarCity shares rose \$2.83, or 5.4 percent, to \$55 in trading before the opening bell.

For power-hungry businesses battery backup can make financial sense even now. Many businesses are charged not just for the amount of electricity they use over a certain period, but also for the level of electricity they need from the grid at any one time. Think of a car owner paying for gasoline to run the engine, but also for the amount of horsepower needed when the car is loaded with people and climbing a steep hill.

Often, those horsepower charges, known in the electric industry as "demand charges" ratchet up quickly.

SolarCity's solar panels can lower those demand peaks when the sun is shining. SolarCity's battery packs will make sure those peaks stay



In this Friday, April 29, 2011, file photo, solar panels line the roof of Ikea's Brooklyn store, in New York.

Associated Press

low when the sun is not shining or the customer needs a little extra juice. The company says the battery systems will lower demand charges by 20 percent.

A secondary benefit: If power goes out, the battery will be able to run critical systems for several hours — or for several days if it is sunny enough for the

battery to recharge with solar electricity during the day. For traditional electric utilities already struggling with weak electricity sales, this represents yet another threat. Efficiency programs and more advanced appliances are already helping customers lower their energy use, and solar panels and other power sources

are helping customers generate their own power. Now commercial customers may have a way to reduce demand charges, too. Other companies offer similar programs to businesses, whether they have solar or not, like Stem, based in Millbrae, California. The company this week announced an investment from General Electric and the Spanish renewable energy company Iberdrola. The batteries offered by SolarCity are the same lithium-ion ones that power Tesla's electric vehicles, reconfigured for stationary use. SolarCity's chairman is Elon Musk, founder and CEO of Tesla Motors. Musk is a cousin of the founders of SolarCity, CEO Lyndon Rive and chief technology officer Peter Rive.

Two Tesla vehicles have caught fire in recent weeks after road debris punctured battery packs. The Tesla batteries for solar backup will be enclosed in steel cases — and they won't be traveling down littered highways at 65 miles per hour. "The battery is extremely safe," Rive said.

The battery systems are also extremely expensive. SolarCity won't say exactly how expensive, but industry insiders put the cost at near \$1,000 per kilowatt-hour, which would make typical commercial system well over \$100,000.

SolarCity won't charge customers for the battery, but will instead offer it as a service for a monthly fee. They will be offered first in markets with high demand charges, such as parts of California, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

A home battery pack would cost in the range of \$25,000 — about as much as the solar panel system itself. And because homeowners don't pay demand charges there isn't an economic way — yet — for the battery to recoup that cost. That could change if battery prices fall sharply, but they have remained stubbornly high despite years of research and development. □

Sohu to stream Nickelodeon programs in China

BEIJING (AP) — "SpongeBob SquarePants" and other Nickelodeon children's programs will be dubbed into Mandarin and available to watch free online in China over the next 12 months in the latest deal to give a foreign entertainment company more access to China's vast market. Sohu Video, a unit of popular Chinese Web portal Sohu.com, announced Thursday an online video-on-demand and video syndication collaboration in China with Viacom International Media Networks, a unit of Viacom Inc.

In a joint statement, the companies said the deal will enable an estimated 389 million Chinese online video users to watch Mandarin-dubbed and subtitled Nickelodeon programming on Sohu's site. The companies declined to say how much Sohu paid for the content. From Sunday, Sohu Video will start to offer more than 200 hours of Nickelodeon



A giant SpongeBob Squarepants balloon is marched down 6th Avenue during the 87th Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Thursday, Nov. 28, 2013, in New York.

Associated Press

programming, including "iconic and beloved characters" such as animated television series "SpongeBob SquarePants," "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" and "Avatar." Sohu's video site is populated

with American TV shows, Japanese animation series, Chinese variety shows and in-house programs. It obtained the exclusive online broadcast rights for the second season of hit reality talent show "The Voice of

China," shown earlier this year, generating nearly 2 billion video views, according to Sohu. "The Big Bang Theory" and "Homeland" are among U.S. programs already available and popular on Sohu. □

Stocks fall on Wall Street; Retailers slump

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The outlook for hiring is improving and the economy is growing at its fastest pace in more than a year, so what's the bad news for the stock market?

Stocks fell Thursday after the government reported that the number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits dropped to the lowest in nearly six years last week. Also, the U.S. economy grew at a 3.6 percent annual rate from July through September, the fastest since early 2012.

Investors believe the encouraging signs on the economy will push the Federal Reserve closer to pulling back on its \$85 billion-a-month bond-buying program. That stimulus, which is intended to hold down interest rates, has been helping to power this year's record-setting run in the stock market.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index dropped for the fifth time in a row, matching its longest losing streak since September.

"If they do cut the bond purchases, the knee-jerk reaction for the market will

be to move down," said Chris Gaffney, a senior market strategist at EverBank.

The S&P 500 index fell 7.78 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,785.03. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 68.26 points, or 0.4 percent, to 15,821.51. The Nasdaq composite declined 4.84 points, or 0.1 percent, at 4,033.16. Earlier in the week, there were strong reports on manufacturing and construction. Investors will get more insight into how the U.S. economy is doing on Friday, when the government releases its monthly jobs report. □



Specialist Jason Hardzewicz works at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks fell Thursday after the government reported that the number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits dropped to the lowest in nearly six years last week.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

US factory orders fall 0.9% in October

JOSH BOAK
AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. factories received fewer orders in October, as aircraft demand fell and businesses cut back on computers. The decline suggests companies were hesitant to invest during the 16-day partial government shutdown. Factory orders dropped 0.9 percent in October, the Commerce Department said Thursday. That followed a 1.8 percent increase in September.

A big reason for the decline in October was a steep drop in orders for aircraft.

But core capital goods, which are a proxy for business investment, dropped 0.6 percent, the second straight decline. Economists watch this category closely because it excludes volatile orders for aircraft and defense equipment.

Much of the decline in that category came from a drop in demand for computers. Demand picked up for primary metals, household appliances and oil and gas field machinery.

All of these are long-lasting goods. The government estimated demand for these products last week and re-

vised their figures in the factory orders report on Thursday.

The report also includes orders for non-durable goods, such as food, chemicals and paper. Those orders fell 0.2 percent and have declined for the past three months.

The government's data have conflicted with other reports that show manufacturing is on an upswing. The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group, said Monday that factory activity grew last month at the fastest pace in 2 ½ years. □

US monthly jobs report can cause strong market moves

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The government's monthly survey of the U.S. job market is always important on Wall Street. It's even more important these days. Investors are trying to figure out when the Federal Reserve will decide that the economy is strong enough to thrive without its extraordinary stimulus measures.

Investors are always happy to see signs of strong hiring, which is consistent with a strong economy. What they are less happy to see is clear evidence that the economy has recovered so much that the Fed will pull back on its huge bond-buying program, which has been an important factor in this year's stock market rally.

The Fed's \$85 billion in monthly bond purchases has kept long-term interest rates extraordinarily low to encourage borrowing and hiring. The Fed's actions also drive the prices of bonds higher, giving investors an incentive to buy stocks instead of bonds.

As soon as the Fed slows its purchases, the thinking goes, bond prices would fall and investors would shift money out of stocks and into bonds. In fact, the only two losing months in the market this year, June and August, occurred as investors worried that the Fed might pull back on stimulus before the economy was ready.

Here are three recent examples of big moves in the stock market on days that the Labor Department released its jobs report. The job additions are initial figures and often get revised later.

Economists expect the government to report Friday that U.S. employers added 180,000 jobs last month.

— JUNE 7:

WHAT HAPPENED: The government reported that U.S. employers added 175,000 jobs in May, a number that struck just the right balance for investors: not too many, not too few. The report suggested that the U.S. economy was expanding, but not so strongly that the Fed was close to ending its bond purchases.

HOW THE MARKET REACTED: Stocks surged. The Dow Jones Industrial average jumped 207 points, its third-biggest gain of the year. It ended at 15,248.12.

— OCTOBER 22:

WHAT HAPPENED: The Labor Department said that just 148,000 jobs were added in September, far fewer than economists expected and a sign that employers cut back on hiring ahead of a partial shutdown of the federal government in October. The September survey was delayed by the shutdown. Investors interpreted the report as a sign the Fed would keep up its stimulus program.

HOW THE MARKET REACTED: Investors liked what they heard. The Dow gained 75 points and the Standard & Poor's 500 index rose to its fourth consecutive record close of the year. The Dow ended at 15,467.66. The S&P 500 finished at 1,754.67, up 10 points.

— NOVEMBER 8:

WHAT HAPPENED: Employers added a surprisingly large amount of jobs in October: the 204,000 figure was far bigger than economists expected. The government also said hiring was more robust than initially reported for August and September. The number reflected consistent, solid growth in the economy but didn't necessarily guarantee that the Fed was about to pull back.

HOW THE MARKET REACTED: The Dow jumped 167 points, erasing its loss from the day before and putting the index back at a record high. The blue-chip index closed at 15,761.78. The S&P 500 closed just a point below its latest record, at 1,770.61. □

Microsoft slumps after Mulally repeats 'no change'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Microsoft shares fell 3 percent Thursday after Ford CEO Alan Mulally said that there is "no change in my plan" to stay with the automaker through the end of next year, dampening some investors' hopes he would take the top job at the software giant soon.

The stock's downturn came despite Mulally's comments on CNBC being no different than what Ford has been saying for months.

The market's reaction indicates investors were hoping the 68-year-old would in fact replace CEO Steve Ballmer, who is set to retire by August at the latest.

"It's clear that the market is hoping that Mulally is the lead candidate," said Morningstar analyst Norman Young.

Ford Motor Co. director Edsel Ford II, the company founder's great grandson, also told reporters at an event for the new Mustang in Dearborn, Michigan, that Mulally is staying with the company through the end of 2014.

Ford spokesman Jay Cooney said in a statement that "nothing has changed from what we announced last November" when the automaker announced Mulally would stay on through 2014. Microsoft said it "does not comment on rumors/speculation."

Mulally is highly respected at Ford for saving the company from financial collapse. Shortly after he was hired away from Boeing Co. in 2006, he mortgaged all of Ford's assets for a huge loan. The \$23.5 billion

loan paid for a restructuring and helped keep Ford out of bankruptcy protection. He has reportedly been a front-runner candidate for Microsoft's executive search committee, along with Satya Nadella, an executive who runs Microsoft's fast-growing cloud computing business. Former Nokia CEO Stephen Elop, business development executive Tony Bates and Chief Operating Officer Kevin Turner were also reportedly being considered.

Mulally and Ballmer are friends and the Microsoft CEO consulted with his counterpart at Ford on a wide-ranging reorganization that Microsoft announced in July. Before taking over at Ford, Mulally spent most of his career at

Boeing in Seattle, not far from Microsoft's headquarters in Redmond, Washington. And Ballmer's father worked for Ford for more than 30 years.

Analyst Kirk Materne with Evercore Partners recommended in a research note Thursday that investors buy Microsoft's shares on the temporary dip in price because "the fundamental upside case for Microsoft holds merit even if the board goes in another direction." Materne said he believes Microsoft will benefit next year from a slower decline in personal computer sales, streamlining under a new CEO and growth in its enterprise and cloud computing business. The software maker's shares were down \$1.09 at \$37.85 on Thursday. □

Marjorie Scardino named to Twitter's board of directors

BARBARA ORTUTAY

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Twitter has named Marjorie Scardino as a director, adding a woman to the all-white male board for which it's been sharply criticized. Scardino, 66, was the CEO of Pearson PLC, a publishing and education company, from 1997 to 2012, Twitter Inc. said in a regulatory filing on Thursday. Before that, she worked at The Economist Group, publisher of The Economist and CQ Roll Call. Her roles at the company included CEO. Twitter tweeted the news of Scardino's appointment from its official account.

Twitter, like Facebook before its own IPO, was criticized for not having women or minorities on its board of directors.

Facebook named its chief operating officer, Sheryl Sandberg, to its board after it went public in May 2012. Unlike Facebook, though, Twitter still doesn't have any high-ranking female executives. Scardino joins CEO Dick Costolo, Chairman Jack Dorsey, along with co-founder Evan Williams and venture capitalists such as Peter Fenton, a general partner at Benchmark Capital, on Twitter's board.

Faced with criticism about its lack of board diversity — three of Twitter's directors are named Peter — Costolo tweeted earlier this year that diversifying the board "has to be about more than checking a box."

As head of Pearson, Scardino was the first woman to become CEO of a FTSE 100 company 16 years ago. The index of leading British stocks is similar to the S&P 500 in the U.S. In her words, not much has changed in that time when it comes to gender imbalance.

Last year, she told the U.K.'s Telegraph that she "thought in 1997 that by the time I left Pearson things would be different in terms of how many women there were as chief executives or chairmen or board members. It's not too different and for that I'm sorry." □

US jobless claims plunge to 298k, as layoffs slow

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans applying for unemployment

benefits last week declined 10,750 to 322,250.

Last week's unemployment benefit applications nearly matched a September fig-

ure that was distorted by late reporting from California. When excluding the September report, last week's figures were the lowest since May 2007.

Applications have now

fallen in seven of the past eight weeks, a hopeful sign for job growth at the end of the year.

Last week included the proxy for layoffs. The steady decline should help boost job gains at a time when hiring has accelerated. The economy has added an average of 202,000 jobs a month from August through October, up from an average of 146,000 in May through July.

The government issues its November employment report on Friday.

A report Wednesday from payroll processor ADP suggested the hiring gains continued last month.

Companies and small businesses added 215,000 jobs in November, ADP said.

Greater employment typically boosts income, which helps drive more economic growth. Consumers' spending accounts for roughly 70 percent of economic activity.

Still, the unemployment rate remains high at 7.3 percent.

That's well above the 5 percent to 6 percent unemployment rate consistent with healthier job markets. When unemployment is lower, workers have more flexibility to change jobs.

Job growth is a major factor for the Federal Reserve in deciding when to reduce its economic stimulus. □



Retired U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Thomas Gipson has his resume looked over during a job fair for veterans at the VFW Post 2681, Marietta, Ga. The Labor Department reported positive data on the number of people who applied for U.S. unemployment benefits last week on Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013.

(AP Photo/David Goldman)

benefits tumbled 23,000 last week to 298,000, nearly a six-year low that shows companies are laying off fewer workers.

The Labor Department said the less volatile four-week

Applications have now

Applications have now

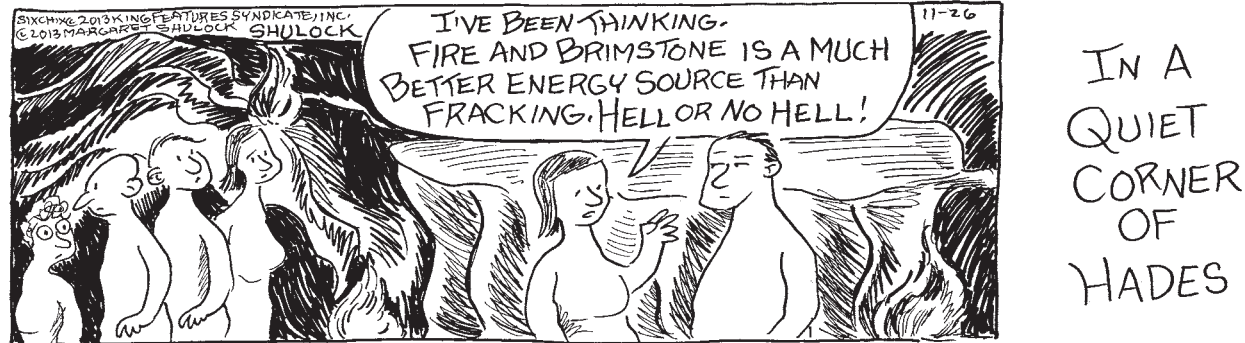
Thanksgiving holiday, which can present challenges for seasonal adjustments. But government officials say there were no special factors affecting the report.

Weekly jobless claims are a

Mutts



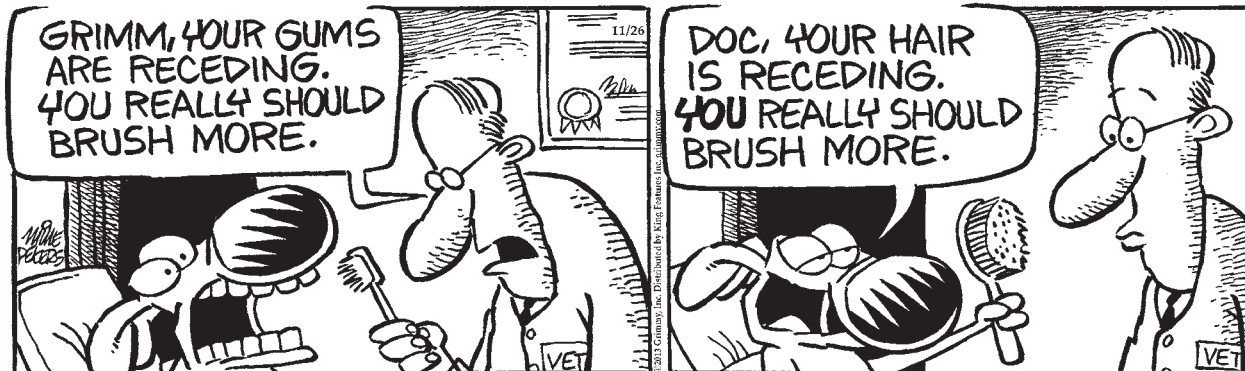
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		2			4	3		
	7						1	
9				8	1			2
1	4	2		6				
		3				4		
			1	9	8			3
8			7	6				4
	2						7	
		9	5			2		

Difficulty Level ★★

11/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

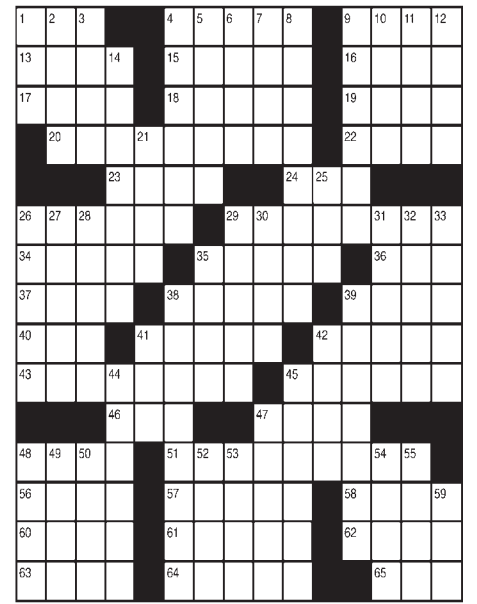
7	2	3	9	8	5	6	1	4
9	4	6	1	3	7	2	5	8
5	1	8	6	4	2	3	7	9
2	6	9	8	5	1	4	3	7
8	7	5	3	9	4	1	6	2
1	3	4	7	2	6	8	9	5
4	9	2	5	1	3	7	8	6
6	5	1	4	7	8	9	2	3
3	8	7	2	6	9	5	4	1

ACROSS

- 1 ___ the time; constantly
- 4 Marsh
- 9 Majority
- 13 Dial or Ivory
- 15 Fight verbally
- 16 In a lazy way
- 17 "Oh, for Pete's ___"
- 18 Actress Sally
- 19 Person, place or thing
- 20 Down in the dumps
- 22 Encourage
- 23 One of the three tenses
- 24 Whopper
- 26 Take willingly
- 29 Devices often hooked to PCs
- 34 "A day late and a dollar ___"
- 35 Elephant nose
- 36 Encountered
- 37 Show-offs
- 38 Fork time
- 39 Unexceptional
- 40 Leprechaun
- 41 Army vehicles
- 42 Spud
- 43 Commandeers a plane in flight
- 45 Nine tens
- 46 Australian bird that cannot fly
- 47 Nourish
- 48 Not quite closed
- 51 Buildings full of books
- 56 Apple's center
- 57 Creek
- 58 Putin's "No"
- 60 Abound
- 61 Run ___ of the law; commit crime
- 62 Equipment
- 63 Kill
- 64 Rough & noisy
- 65 Parched

DOWN

- 1 Burro
- 2 Washerful of laundry



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/26/13

Monday's Puzzle Solved

3	Body of water	35	Long journey	48	Performs
4	Least risky	38	Odd	49	Singer Billy ___
5	Watch's place	39	Making smooth	50	Length times
6	Eras	41	Bread spread		width
7	"I've got a __, her name is Sal..."	42	Bleachers level	52	News, for short
8	Selling on the street	44	Actor Irons	53	Hard hit
9	Graceful dance	45	In a tidy way	54	Watched
10	Smell	47	Father of psychoanalysis	55	Burn
11	Punch			59	Give it a go
12	Actress Daly				
14	Salsa ingredients				
21	Engrossed				
25	Pen contents				
26	Sooty residue				
27	Blackboard writer's need				
28	Cozy				
29	___ up; supports				
30	Diamond scores				
31	Shed crocodile tears				
32	Bowling alley button				
33	Tale				

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11/26/13

Disgraced priest Thomas Williams to wed pope adviser's daughter

NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Thomas Williams, the one-time public face of the disgraced Legion of Christ religious order who left the priesthood after admitting he fathered a child, is getting married this week-end to the child's mother, The Associated Press has learned. The bride is the daughter of former U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See Mary Ann Glendon, one of Pope Francis' top advisers.

Glendon, a Harvard University law professor, is one of the highest-ranking women at the Vatican as president of the Pontifical Academy for Social Sciences. She is also one of five people on Francis' commission to reform the scandal-marred Vatican bank. Her daughter, Elizabeth Lev, is a Rome-based art historian and columnist for the Legion-run Zenit news agency, which Williams published for over a decade while he was in the order.

Williams, a moral theologian, author, lecturer and U.S. television personality, admitted last year that he had fathered a child several years earlier.

At the time, Williams apologized for "this grave transgression" against his vows of celibacy and said he had stayed on as a priest because he hoped to move beyond "this sin in my past" to do good work for the church. The Legion's retired superior later admitted he had learned about the child in 2005 but allowed Williams to keep teaching and preaching about morality.

After taking a year off for reflection, Williams left the priesthood in May to care

for his son. According to their wedding registry, he and Lev are due to marry on Saturday in the United States.

Asked for comment Thursday, Lev confirmed the wedding plans in an email, adding: "We have no intention of ever discussing our personal life in this forum."

She had initially denied an intimate relationship with Williams, though they frequently appeared together in American circles in Rome, particularly with visiting U.S. student and Catholic tour groups.

Their wedding closes a circle of sorts, even as it raises some uncomfortable questions: Who beyond Williams' superior in the church knew about the child while the couple tried to cover it up? Was Williams already in a relationship with Lev when she became a regular contributor to the magazine he published?

And did the family ties to Williams influence Glendon in her defense of the Legion and its disgraced founder despite credible reports that the founder was a pedophile?

The questions swirled Thursday as the Legion dropped a bombshell of its own, admitting that a superior who was in charge of the bulk of its American priests-in-training for over a decade sexually abused a minor at the Legion's novitiate in Cheshire, Connecticut. The Legion said a second accuser had also come forward with an allegation against the Rev. William Izquierdo, who was novice director at the Cheshire school from 1982-1994 and in Ireland before then. Izquierdo, now 85, has dementia. □



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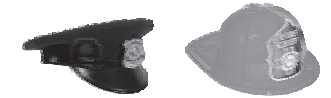
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Jamaica scientist launches medical marijuana firm

DAVID McFADDEN

Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— A prominent Jamaican scientist and entrepreneur is launching a company that aims to capitalize on medical marijuana, a growing global industry that he asserted Wednesday could be a boon for the island's chronically limping economy.

Henry Lowe, a researcher who specializes in medicinal chemistry and the chairman of an institute that develops therapeutic and cosmetic products from various plants in Jamaica, is calling his new venture Medicanja. It will focus on isolating medicinal compounds in the cannabis plant, known locally as "ganja," and Lowe said the research will not violate any local laws or international conventions.

Lowe said Jamaica could become a powerhouse in the nascent medical marijuana industry, health tourism and the development of innovative pot-derived items. Local scientists already have a history of



This photo taken April 4, 2012, shows growing chamber manager Sharon Shilman weighing and packaging seeds from plants grown in Sub Terra LLC's underground chamber in a former copper mine in White Pine, Mich., in the Upper Peninsula.

Associated Press

creating marijuana-derived products, such as "Canasol," which helps relieve pressure in the eyes of glaucoma patients.

"This is a big opportunity for us," Lowe said in a phone interview.

Marijuana is pervasive on the Caribbean island despite being prohibited since 1913. It's long been used as a medicinal herb by Jamaican families and as a spiritual sacrament by Rastafarians. In 2001,

a government-appointed commission said pot was "culturally entrenched" and recommended decriminalization, but the effort stalled.

Advocates for pot say it's time for Jamaica to give

its moribund economy a boost by embracing cannabis-related ventures. With a growing number of U.S. states changing their marijuana laws, and voters in Washington and Colorado legalizing marijuana, the activists say Jamaica should decriminalize pot and stop worrying that might anger the U.S. The island has long been the Caribbean's biggest pot exporter to the U.S.

Influential politicians are increasingly taking up the idea. Health Minister Fenton Ferguson said last week that he is "fully on board" with medical marijuana, and the justice minister has said the Cabinet should be asked to consider changes to pot laws before the end of the year. Some church leaders and lawmakers oppose decriminalization of even small amounts of marijuana, arguing the negative effects of the drug outweigh any benefits, especially for young people. But many of them say they have no problem with medical marijuana research. □



This photo shows a snowy owl at the Edwin B Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, in Galloway Township, N.J., on Wednesday Dec. 4, 2013. Birdwatchers traveled from all over to see the owl Wednesday.

Associated Press

By MARY ESCH

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Snow-white owls with luminous yellow eyes are thrilling bird-watchers as the magnificent birds set up winter residence at airports, fields and beaches far south of their normal Arctic range. Snowy owls, familiar to children as Harry Potter's pet, made a noticeable ap-

pearance in the northern half of the U.S. in 2011. Bird-watchers recently report on eBird.org snowy owl sightings in dozens of locations across the Midwest, Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states as far south as Cape Hatteras, N.C.

The owls live in the Arctic, but when their population spikes or lemmings are scarce, young ones fly

Unusual number of Arctic snowy owls seen in U.S

south. "Snowy owl populations are synchronized with their food source, lemmings," wildlife photographer Lillian Stokes, who co-authors the Stokes bird guides, said Thursday. "If the lemming population crashes, the owls have to go south in search of food."

A few snowy owls are seen in the U.S. every year, Stokes said. "But this year is phenomenal. People believe this could be historic numbers."

It's too early to say how large this year's snowy owl invasion will be, said Denver Holt, a researcher in Charlo, Mont., who has been studying the owls in Alaska for 22 years. "In 2011, it was enormous, nationwide, with sightings in 35 states," Holt said.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithol-

ogy website says that winter irruptions, or large numbers appearing outside their normal range, occur in snowy owls about every four years. During irruptive years, snowy owls may winter as far south as California, Texas and Florida. They're easy to see because they're big and white, are active during the day, and hang out in flat, open areas such as airports, farm fields and coastal dunes and marshes, where they hunt for mice, rabbits, waterfowl and other prey. Jessie Barrie, a scientist at the Cornell lab in Ithaca, agrees it's too early to say how this year's irruption compares to the one in 2011.

"We're just at the beginning of the invasion," Barrie said. "It certainly is at a level that is pretty intense and

exciting for bird-watchers, though. There are multiple birds in many locations, an indication of a strong irruption."

Six snowy owls have been hanging out on one dock at Braddock Bay on Lake Ontario near Rochester. Stokes said she and her husband spotted nine on the New Hampshire coast last weekend. At least 20 have been reported around New Jersey, and birders flocked to the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge in that state on Wednesday to peer at a snowy owl there.

Barrie said reporting by spotters in the eBird database provides researchers with valuable information that will help them better understand the movements of snowy owls and other species. □



In this June 5, 2011 file photo, Amanda Bynes arrives at the MTV Movie Awards, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Lawyer: Amanda Bynes leaves inpatient treatment

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A lawyer for Amanda Bynes says the actress has left an inpatient mental health treatment facility and is back with her parents. Attorney Tamar Arminak on Thursday confirmed the 27-year-old actress's release. Bynes has been in treatment since July, when she was placed on a psychiatric hold after starting a fire in a driveway in her hometown of Thousand Oaks, California. Her mother, Lynn Bynes, was granted

a temporary conservatorship over the actress, but the case was dismissed because Amanda Bynes' care was being overseen by a mental health court. Arminak wrote in a statement to People magazine that Amanda Bynes' treatment will continue. Bynes' release was first reported by celebrity website RadarOnline.com. The actress starred in the Nickelodeon show "All That" and her own variety series. □

Netflix sets 'House of Cards' return on Feb. 14

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The second season of Netflix's political thriller, "House of Cards," will debut on Valentine's Day next year. All 13 episodes will be available immediately Feb. 14. The Los Gatos, Calif., company says the show, starring Kevin Spacey, Robin Wright and Kate Mara, will follow Washington politicians Francis and Claire Underwood on "their ruthless rise to power." Meanwhile, Zoe Barnes, the

reporter played by Mara, "is inching closer to the truth" about Underwood's crimes. "House of Cards" has become Netflix's signature original series, with the show taking home three Emmys for casting, directing and cinematography in September. The second season will see episodes directed by a slew of directors including Wright, Jodie Foster and James Foley, who directed "Glengarry Glen Ross." □

Mandela film breaks box office records in S. Africa



This photo released by The Weinstein Company shows Idris Elba, left, as Nelson Mandela, and Riad Moosa, as Ahmed Kathrada, in the film, "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom." The movie opens on Friday, Nov. 29, 2013.

Associated Press

RAY FAURE
Associated Press
JOHANNESBURG (AP) — A movie depicting the life of Nelson Mandela has become South Africa's highest grossing picture after its opening last week, its producers said Thursday. The film, "Long Walk to Freedom," has already earned

\$427,000 (Rand 4.4 million), according to Videovision Entertainment. The movie stars British actor Idris Elba as Mandela, the 95-year-old liberation struggle icon. It's based on his autobiography with the same title. The British-South African co-production opened just over a week ago in South

Africa, followed by a limited engagement in New York and Los Angeles. "I visited a few cinemas over the weekend and experienced the emotional response to the film with audiences leaving the cinemas completely satisfied," said producer Anant Singh. "For me as a filmmaker, this is really fulfilling." □

Edward Hopper painting sells for over \$40M



This undated photo provided by Christie's shows Edward Hopper's painting, "East Wind Over Weehawken" which sold Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013 by Christie's for \$40.5 million - a new auction record for the artist.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Edward Hopper's "East Wind Over Weehawken" has sold for \$40.5 million — an auction record for the artist. The 1934 work depicts a streetscape of the New Jersey city across the Hudson River from New York. It had been in the collection of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. An anonymous telephone bidder purchased the work at Christie's on Thursday. The pre-sale estimate was \$22 million to \$28 million. The painting captures the melancholy of post-Depression life in America. Hopper considered it one of his best works. □

Penelope Cruz leads 'Twice Born' on and off camera

JESSICA HERNDON

AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Forgetting Penelope Cruz is almost 40-years-old is easy to do.

Even when she bears heavy makeup to add wrinkles for her role as Gemma in the war-time melodrama "Twice Born," it's nearly impossible for the actress to truly look weathered.

When pressed against 28-year-old co-star Emile Hirsch during love scenes, the bond seems natural and comfortable.

The Sergio Castellitto film opens in limited U.S. release on Friday after first premiering in Italy last year. It's based on the book of the same title, written by Castellitto's wife, Margaret Mazzantini.

"I could not put it down," said Cruz of the tale set amid the Yugoslav Wars. When Gemma and Diego (Hirsch) fall in love during the 1984 Winter Olympics in Bosnia, they both discover they desperately want children. But Gemma is unable to conceive.



This photo released by Entertainment One Films US shows, Penelope Cruz, as Gemma, in a scene from the film, "Twice Born." Associated Press

"It's a 700-page book and I read it in a day and a half and was blown away by the character," said Cruz, who also produced the film. "Every role makes me feel like I'm a student," Cruz added via Skype from London. "It's a great feeling."

Cruz became involved with the film early-on, including casting.

Emile Hirsch was Cruz's

ideal choice for the role of Diego. "I think he is an incredible actor," she said. "I have seen most of the things that he has done. I especially loved his work in the Sean Penn-directed, 'Into the Wild.'" She also came to love Hirsch's methods.

To "make sure things didn't get boring" between takes, said Cruz, Hirsch would playfully strike up an argument.

"Like he would come to my trailer and say that he'd just seen a documentary on a scientist that did blah, blah, blah . but it would stump me," said Cruz. "So I would fight him."

This was Cruz's second collaboration with director Castellitto — she teamed with him on the 2004 film "Don't Move" — and the actress was encouraged to take on

the larger role of producer, since she's been dabbling behind-the-scenes more and more of late.

Earlier this year, she directed a commercial for her L'Agent lingerie line — a collaboration with her sister, Monica Cruz, and Agent Provocateur. Next, the actress will direct another L'Agent spot and she'll produce and star in Fernando Trueba's feature "La Reina de Espana."

Cruz remains eager to continue expanding her artistic reach — just as long as her packed schedule doesn't take her away from loved ones for too long.

"Family is my No. 1 priority," said the busy mother of a baby and toddler with husband Javier Bardem. "There are so many things that I think about now that I didn't think about before," she continued. "When I look at what I'm going to do next and when, where, how, I think about my family." Being a mother, she added, "is the best thing that can happen to you in your life." □

National Board of Review names 'Her' best film

JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The National Board of Review named the futuristic romance "Her" best film and Spike Jonze best director in its annual awards.

The honors announced Wednesday give Jonze's film some early support in an awards season that's shaping up to be unpredictable. The Warner Bros. film about a man (Joaquin Phoenix) who falls in love with a computer operating system (voiced by Scarlett Johansson) is to be released later in December. Alexander Payne's father-son road trip "Nebraska" took two acting awards: Bruce Dern for best actor, and co-star Will Forte for best supporting actor.

Emma Thompson was awarded best actress for the "Mary Poppins" making-of story "Saving Mr. Banks." Best supporting actress went to Octavia Spencer for her performance in the day-in-a-life tale "Fruitvale Station."

The board also cited "Fruitvale Station" star Michael B. Jordan as breakthrough performance of the year, and the film's director, Ryan Coogler, for best directorial debut.

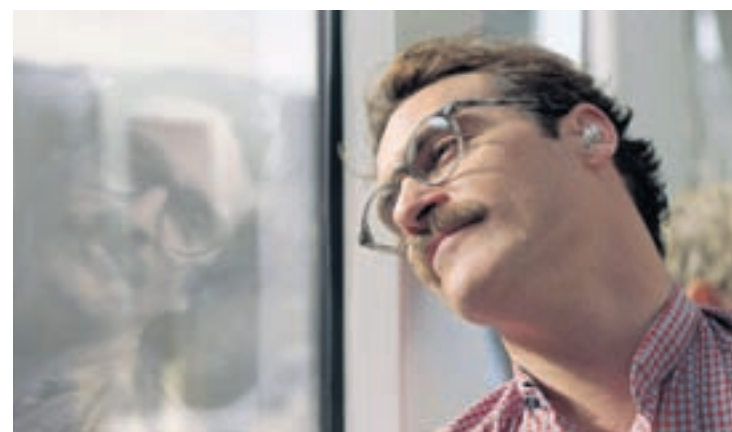
The annual run of film honors leading up to the Academy Awards has been particularly spread around so far. Though the space adventure "Gravity" and slavery epic "12 Years a Slave" are looked at as the front-runners, neither has yet yielded a best

picture award.

The New York Film Critics Circle on Tuesday named David O. Russell's "American Hustle" best film. On Monday, the Gotham Independent Awards chose the Coen brothers' "Inside Llewyn Davis."

Yet both "12 Years a Slave" and "American Hustle" were each shut out by the NBR's. "Gravity" earned an award for creative innovation in filmmaking.

The Coens' script for the folk musician tale was picked for best original screenplay by the board. Best adapted screenplay went to Terence Winter's script for Martin Scorsese's "The Wolf of Wall Street." The NBR's also gave its spotlight award to Scorsese and the film's star, Leonar-



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Joaquin Phoenix in a scene from the Spike Jonze film, "Her." "Her" has been selected as the best film of the year by the National Board of Review. Associated Press

do DiCaprio, for their long-running collaboration.

Additionally, the board honored "The Past" as best foreign language film, "The Wind Rises" as best animated film, and "Stories We Tell" as best documentary. The National Board of Review, a group of film academics, students and professionals founded in 1909, is one of the first groups to announce its picks for the

year's best movies. The Los Angeles Film Critics announce their choices on Sunday. The Golden Globe nominations come Dec. 12.

Last year, the board awarded Kathryn Bigelow's "Zero Dark Thirty" best film.

The awards will be handed out in a gala in New York on Jan. 7, to be hosted by "Good Morning America" anchor Lara Spencer. □

The Stem And The Flower



DAVID BROOKS
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In an act of amazing public service, I have not written a column in three months. In the course of that time, I've stepped back from politics, a bit, and thought about other things. That naturally raises the question: How much emotional and psychic space should politics take up in a normal healthy brain?

Let's use one of President Barack Obama's favorite rhetorical devices and frame the issue with the two extremes.

On the one hand, there are those who are completely cynical about politics. But, as the columnist Michael Gerson has put it, this sort of cynicism is the luxury of privileged people. If you live in a functioning society, you can say politicians are just a bunch of crooks. But, if you live in a place without rule of law, where a walk down a nighttime street can be terrifying, where tribalism leads to murder, you know that politics is a vital concern.

On the other hand, there are those who form their identity around politics and look to it to complete their natures. These overpoliticized people come in two forms: the aspirational and the tribal. The aspirational hope that politics can transform society and provide meaning. They were inspired by the lofty rhetoric of John F. Kennedy's inaugural address. The possibilities, he argued, were limitless: "Man holds in his mortal hands the power to abolish all forms of human poverty."

The problem with this lofty rhetoric is that politics can rarely deliver, so there is a cynical backlash when the limited realities of government reassert themselves. This inevitable letdown is happening to a lot of Obama's supporters right now.

Then there are those who look to politics for identity. They treat their partisan affiliation as a form of ethnicity. These people drive a lot of talk radio and television. Not long ago, most intelligent television talk was not about politics. Shows would put interesting people together, like Woody Allen with Billy Graham (check it out on YouTube), and they'd discuss anything under the sun.

Now most TV and radio talk is minute political analysis, while talk of culture has shriveled. This change is driven by people who, absent other attach-

ments, have fallen upon partisanship to give them a sense of righteousness and belonging. This emotional addiction can lead to auto-hysteria.

So if politics should not be nothing in life, but not everything, what should it be? We should start by acknowledging that except for a few rare occasions - the Civil War, the Depression - government is a slow trudge, oriented around essential but mundane tasks.

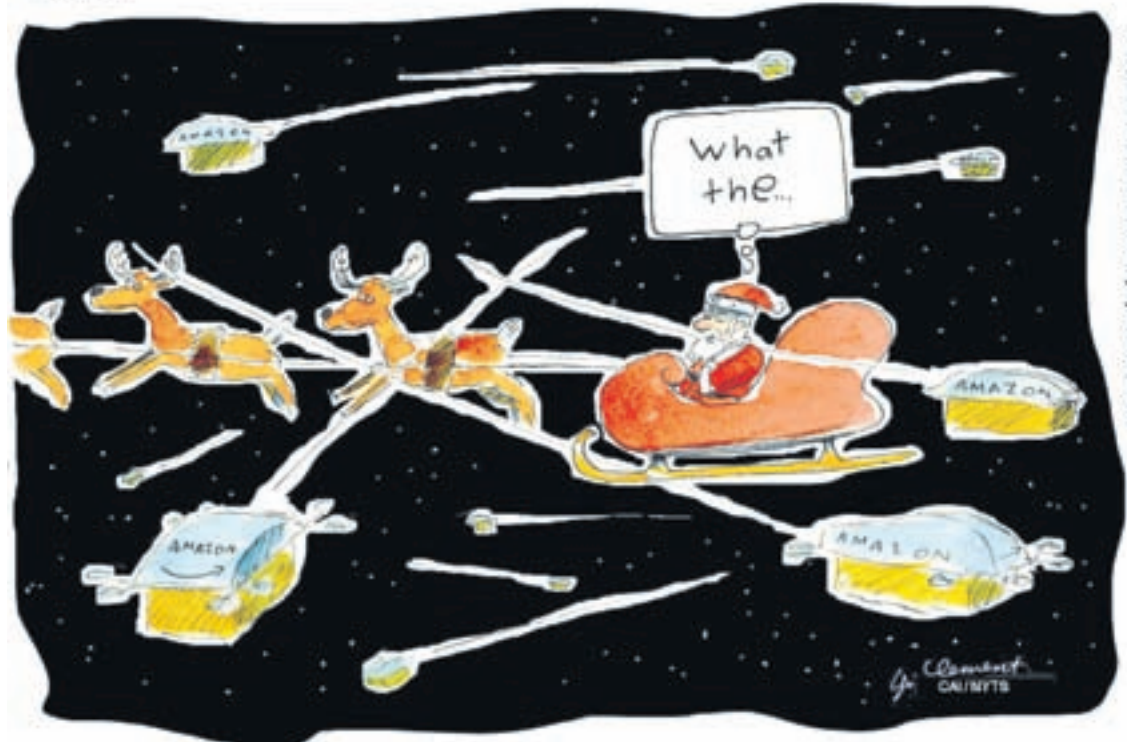
Imagine you are going to a picnic. Government is properly in charge of maintaining the essential background order: making sure there is a park, that it is reasonably clean and safe, arranging public transportation so as many people as possible can get to it. But if you remember the picnic afterward, these things won't be what you remember. You'll remember the creative food, the interesting conversations and the fun activities.

Government is the hard work of creating a background order, but it is not the main substance of life. As Samuel Johnson famously put it, "How small, of all that human hearts endure, that part which laws or kings can cause or cure." Government can set the stage, but it can't be the play.

It is just too balky an instrument. As we're seeing even with the Obamacare implementation, government is good at check-writing, like Social Security, but it is not nimble in the face of complexity. It doesn't adapt to failure well. There's a lot of passive-aggressive behavior. In any federal action, one administrator will think one thing; another administrator will misunderstand and do something else; a political operative will have a different agenda; a disgruntled fourth party will leak and sabotage. You can't fire anybody or close anything down. It's hard to use economic incentives to get people moving in one direction. Governing is the noble but hard job of trying to get anything done under a permanent condition of Murphy's Law. So one's attitude toward politics should be a passionate devotion to a mundane and limited thing. Government is essential, but, to switch metaphors ridiculously, it's the stem of the flower, not the bloom. The best government is boring, gradual and orderly.

It's steady reform, not exciting transformation. It's keeping the peace and promoting justice and creating a background setting for mobility, but it doesn't deliver meaning.

I figure that unless you are in the business of politics, covering it or columnizing about it, politics should take up maybe a tenth corner of a good citizen's mind. The rest should be philosophy, friendship, romance, family, culture and fun. I wish our talk-show culture reflected that balance, and that the emotional register around politics were more in keeping with its low but steady nature. □



Mommy, The Drone's Here!



MAUREEN DOWD
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WASHINGTON - The novelty of flying cars never materialized. But flying novels are right around the corner.

If you aren't nervous enough reading about 3-D printers spitting out handguns or Google robots with Android phones, imagine the skies thick with crisscrossing tiny drones.

"I know this looks like science fiction. It's not," Jeff Bezos told Charlie Rose on "60 Minutes" Sunday, unveiling his octocopter drones.

The Amazon founder is optimistic that the fleet of miniature robot helicopters clutching plastic containers will be ready to follow GPS coordinates within a radius of 10 miles and zip around the country providing half-hour delivery of packages of up to 5 pounds - 86 percent of Amazon's stock - just as soon as the FAA approves.

"Wow!" Rose said, absorbing the wackiness of it all.

The futuristic Pony Express to deliver pony-print coats and other Amazon goodies will be "fun," Bezos said, and won't start until they have "all the systems you need to say, 'Look, this thing can't land on somebody's head while they're walking around their neighborhood.'"

So if they can't land on my head, why do they make my head hurt? Maybe because they are redolent of President Barack Obama's unhealthy attachment to lethal drones, which are killing too many innocents in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and our spy agencies' unhealthy attachment to indis-

criminate surveillance.

Or maybe they recall that eerie "Twilight Zone" episode where a Brobdingnagian Agnes Moorehead fends off tiny spaceships with a big wooden stirrer - even though these flying machines would be dropping off the housewares.

Or maybe it's because after "60 Minutes," "Homeland" featured a story line about a drone both faulty and morally agnostic. The White House chief of staff, wanting to cover up a bolloxed-up covert operation on the Iraq-Iran border, suggested directing the drone to finish off its own agent, Brody.

"I will not order a strike on our own men," the acting CIA chief, played by Mandy Patinkin, replied sternly. "Hang it up."

Or maybe I am leery that Bezos, who is also dabbling in space tourism, was looking for a Cyber Monday PR coup by playing to Americans' ranker instincts, hooking our instant gratification society on ever more instant gratification. Do we really need that argyle sweater plopped in our hands in half an hour as opposed to the next day? What would Pope Francis say?

And won't all the other alpha moguls want their own drone fleets? Howard Schultz will want to drop your half-caf, bone-dry, ristretto, venti, four-pump, sugar-free, cinnamon dolce, soy skinny Starbucks latte on the front step at 7 a.m., and Tim Cook will want to deliver the latest Apple toys the soonest, and Disney's Robert Iger will want his drones gussied up like Mary Poppins.

It will be interesting to watch The Washington Post cover new owner Bezos as he takes on the FAA over drone regulations. The agency is drafting rules to let larger commercial drones and airlines share the sky, with an eye toward issuing licenses in 2015, but a handful of states are passing restrictions of their own. Lobbying for private unmanned drones, Bezos will be aligned with the Motion Picture Association of America, which is working to get directors the right to use drones for aerial shots.

It's a business taking flight. Experts say there may be as many

as 30,000 unmanned private and government drones flying in this country by 2020, ratcheting drones into a \$90 billion industry, generating 100,000 jobs. A degree in drone management can't be far off.

Politico writes that the logistics of drone delivery will be dizzying: "It's easy enough to drop a package on someone's front steps, but what if the person lives in a fifth-floor apartment? Amazon wants to launch the service in large urban areas - could a drone collide with a skyscraper?"

Drones are less restricted abroad. Irish filmmaker Caroline Campbell used one to shoot film of Google and Facebook offices in Dublin, telling Wired, "We feel that it is no more intrusive than something like Google Street View."

Journalists, police and paparazzi jumped on the drone trend. One photographer dispatched a drone over Tina Turner's Lake Zurich estate to snap shots of her wedding last summer - before police ordered it grounded.

According to USA Today on Tuesday, all sorts of American businesses are eluding drone restrictions: real estate representatives are getting video of luxury properties; photographers are collecting footage of Hawaiian surfers; Western farmers are monitoring their land; Sonoma vintners are checking on how their grapes are faring. As Rem Rieder wryly noted in that paper, Bezos may eventually let his drones help with home delivery of The Washington Post, "but it's bad news for kids on bikes." Law enforcement agencies are eager to get drones patrolling the beat. And The Wrap reported that in the upcoming Sony remake of "RoboCop," Samuel L. Jackson's character, a spokesman for a multinational conglomerate that has to manufacture a special RoboCop with a conscience for America (still traumatized by "The Terminator," no doubt) scolds Americans for being "robophobic."

Of course, for the robophobic, there is already a way to get goods almost immediately: Go to the store. □

Ideals, Values Skewing As Cuba Reforms Set In

ANDREA RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — It's not dog-eat-dog. Not just yet. But as more and more islanders go into business for themselves under President Raul Castro's economic reforms, the ethos of capitalism is increasingly seeping into Cuban daily life, often in stark conflict with fundamental tenets of the Cuban Revolution. These days it seems there's

others hope — that values anathema to a half-century of Communist rule are taking root more with each passing day: It's OK to make money, within limits; workers can reap the benefits of their own labor directly, instead of seeing it redistributed; individual enterprise is rewarded. "There have been changes, and as the country grows there will be more," said Luis Antonio Veliz, pro-

brocade. He's done well enough that he recently was able to relocate his business to prime real estate in the colonial quarter that draws well-heeled tourists. But with success, came sacrifice. Veliz realized he had to be on-call 24 hours a day to solve problems, an unthinkable notion when he was a state-employed restaurant worker. He skipped vacations, and

and cheese sandwiches for about 20 cents apiece. Sometimes street vendors park their carts here, ramping up the competition further. Yeska Estiu, a 44-year-old florist, recalled the dilemma she faced when stores ran out of the green spray paint they use to spruce up the accent ferns in their arrangements. In an inspired moment she hit on switching to white paint — giv-

ing her bouquets a snowy touch that was a big hit with clients.

Within a few days, the others had copied the technique. "Here, sales are based on quality, on innovation," said Estiu, who also tries to stand out from her neighbors by swathing her bouquets in brightly colored paper and ribbons brought from overseas by her husband. "We are all competing to have a better product." The new business ethos comes with risks, some Cubans say. Gilberto Valladares, better known as "Papito," worries that competition and self-interest will eat away at revolutionary values such as soli-

arity, unity and nationalist pride. Valladares is the founder of the private Artecorte hair studio, which resembles an opulent European salon for its mosaic floors, high ceilings, intricate plaster molding and romantic candelabras. He's on a mission to convince fellow entrepreneurs that they have a moral duty to give back to the community. In recent years he has used his Artecorte salon to bankroll a neighborhood revival project, opening up an adjacent barbers' school, repainting shabby walls and installing plants and street lights.

"I want people to understand that not only should there be economic benefit, but they can contribute to the social benefit," said Valladares, 44.

Many islanders are using newfound income to build second stories and other additions to their crowded houses. Even the very concept of the family home has been turned on its head by a measure legalizing real estate sales. Better-off Cubans wear the latest designs brought in from Miami, Ecuador or Panama. Six years ago, cell phones were closely restricted and there were only 330,000 of them for a country of 11 million. Today there are 1.8 million mobiles, according to government statistics.

Marketing-minded entrepreneurs are aggressively targeting this sector, with some blasting out text-message ads for everything from beauty parlor openings to Friday night two-for-one drink specials. Some displays of wealth do cause eyes to roll, such as a thriving new bar circuit catering to young, fashionable Cubans. Last month, costumed 20-somethings packed an air-conditioned basement club for Halloween — a holiday that for more than a half-century has been observed by practically nobody in a country where many aspects of American culture were branded as imperialism. □



A truck driver rests on a truck roof as he watches people buy fruit and vegetables at the 114th Street Market on the outskirts of Havana, Cuba. Produce is brought in by growers themselves and by transportation specialists who make a living by buying crops far away and hauling them to Havana, the island's biggest and most important market.

(AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

a mom-and-pop snack shop or pirate DVD stand on every other block in parts of Havana. The chants of cart-pushing vendors echo through residential streets. Farmers line up before dawn at an open-air market to jockey for the best spot to sell their produce. After decades of being urged to report any black market activity in their neighborhoods, some Cubans now find themselves looking at their neighbors' legal businesses and worrying that they're falling behind. The free market is still limited in Cuba, but already it is altering lives and reshaping attitudes in palpable ways. Some fear — and

prietor of the stylish, independent cabaret-nightclub Fashion Bar Habana. "It's a very positive thing, but some Cubans are having difficulty understanding that now not everything depends on the state." While many new entrepreneurs have failed, undone by a lack of supplies, a limited customer base and scarce resources, many of those who have succeeded have entered a glamorous world that disappeared after Fidel Castro's arrival in Havana put an end to the freewheeling 1950s. It's on display at Fashion Bar Habana, where Veliz has draped the walls in luscious silver and gold

sometimes went days without seeing his family. "When you work for yourself, you have to look out for your own interests," Veliz said. "I've become harder, tougher, more confident." The law of the marketplace visibly dominates places like Old Havana's Egido Street, which teems with horn-blowing, smoke-belching cars and independent pedicab drivers calling out to potential fares. Dozens of entrepreneurs have moved in to take advantage of the foot traffic around a farmer's market. They include 13 flower shops and at least seven modest luncheonettes that all offer more or less the same ham

ing her bouquets a snowy touch that was a big hit with clients. Within a few days, the others had copied the technique. "Here, sales are based on quality, on innovation," said Estiu, who also tries to stand out from her neighbors by swathing her bouquets in brightly colored paper and ribbons brought from overseas by her husband. "We are all competing to have a better product." The new business ethos comes with risks, some Cubans say. Gilberto Valladares, better known as "Papito," worries that competition and self-interest will eat away at revolutionary values such as soli-